



Dear ACOSA Members,

Terry Mizrahi has sent this letter (see below) to the National Search committee for a new president of CSWE. She is asking that if there other members who feel the same way as she does, to please contact the Selection committee. Please see the CSWE web site for the full listing of members.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to express my concern with regard to the specific wording of the section in the Job Title for President of CSWE which does not require that one of the degrees of the candidate be in social work. As a leader in the profession as president of NASW and in my other positions, I was often faced with those choices. In every instance I and my colleagues opted for a member of our own profession. And having been the Co- Editor of the Encyclopedia as well, I know how many well qualified social work leaders inside and outside academia there are. Remember too, I was on the search committee in 2003 that chose Julia Watkins. And as I recall, all the finalists were highly qualified social workers.

Frankly, I cannot understand why a prestigious national organization that represents the social work profession would not expect that its head hold a social work degree. I cannot think of another profession of our stature that would consider turning such a pivotal leadership position over to someone who is not a proven leader within its profession. The idea that the American Medical Association, the American Bar Association, the National League for Nursing, etc. would word its prospectus the way yours is currently worded is quite disturbing. It is possible that those professional and academic programs who advertise for top positions, may not state even identify specific educational criteria because the assumption is that the person would be a member of their own profession.

The implication of your job qualifications wording, however oblique, is that a member of another discipline may be more qualified to lead us than a member of our own. Why would we choose to relinquish the opportunity to lead ourselves, and turn this responsibility over to others when no other profession with our stature would choose to do so? We will undermine our own credibility and autonomy if we do not hire a fellow social work educator, scholar, leader par excellence.

Regardless of whether you change the wording or not, it is essential that the person who is hired to shape US social work education be a qualified professional social worker. I and others have polled many of our colleagues and I know that there are hundreds if not thousands who feel that same way, many of whom I assume you have heard from or will hear from soon.

Thank you.

Terry Mizrahi, PhD., MSW, Professor

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks for your attention to this call for action.

Take care,  
Sondra Fogel  
ACOSA Chair