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Social Work Program Receives Key Accreditation

04/02/2009

Lindenwood University's Social Work Program has achieved a key accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education as the culmination of a process that spanned more than four years.

Carla Mueller, dean of the Lindenwood School of Human Services, said the Social Work Program was launched in 1998 and became a candidate for CSWE accreditation in 2005. This was followed by four site visits by teams from the council in the fall of 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, as well as submission of a 510-page report that covered everything about the program and how it fits within Lindenwood University.

CSWE has been accrediting social work education programs since 1974; currently 400 programs throughout the United States have completed the stringent evaluation process and hold accreditation from the council.

"Each social work program is required to articulate its unique approach to social work education," Mueller said. "At Lindenwood, our themes are cultural diversity, critical thinking, communication skills, values and ethics, and populations at risk."

As a result of the accreditation, Lindenwood students in the program will enjoy advanced standing in master of social work programs and will be able to enter two-year master's programs anywhere from a semester to a full year ahead when they attend full-time.

"This makes the Lindenwood undergraduate program a combination of an undergraduate program and graduate program at the same time," Mueller said. "Our graduates are also eligible for state licensure because of the accreditation."

For more information about the Lindenwood University Social Work Program, call Mueller at 636-949-4731.

Lindenwood University, founded in 1827, is an independent liberal arts university offering 84 undergraduate degree programs and 37 graduate programs in diverse areas of study in traditional and accelerated formats. Lindenwood operates a residential campus in historic St. Charles, as well as 10 extended sites throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area.