CSU, Chico
School of Social Work

DL-BSW & DL-MSW:
Accessible, Affordable, and Achievable (with support)

Presented by Dr. Seema Sehrawat
CIBHS Summit, March 9th, 2017
Why Program/Strategy Selected

☆ Our efforts not reaching the far north regions

☆ Three-way partnership for educational collaboration
  ✦ California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) Title IV-E Child Welfare Program,
  ✦ Superior Region WET Partnership, and
  ✦ Two universities (HSU and CSU, Chico).

☆ **Goal:** Access to education and increase the number of professional social workers committed to our region
Counties Involved/Served
Program Overview

- Online/hybrid model for the BSW and MSW Programs
  - 2 yr & 3 yr BSW option
  - 3yr MSW program, follows cohort model
  - Pilot 1yr advanced standing MSW Program

- State funded - educational costs of the program are covered by the institution through state monies and student fees

- Equitable and affordable for distributed learning students
All Distributed Learning Students 2009-2015

# of Students by County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th># of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Butte</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contra Costa</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson, OR</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lassen</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mendocino</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modoc</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plumas</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacramento</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Luis Obispo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Clara</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shasta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sierra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Siskiyou</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sonoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sutter</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tehama</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trinity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuba</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>114</strong></td>
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Workforce need addressed by the strategy/program

* Lack of Professional Child Welfare and Behavioral Health workers to support the needs of individuals and families
* Building a career ladder
* Bringing professional social workers services to the north - graduates of our traditional program were not reaching the far north
Outcomes: progress so far

* 106 MSWs trained in our DL MSW Program are serving our region since
* 15 DL BSW students are serving our region since 2009
* Survey result –January 2016: 20 alumni responded (41% response rate)
  * 85% were employed while they were working
  * Currently 100% of them are employed in social work field in our region
  * 95% agreed or strongly agreed that their educational experience gave them the opportunity to develop skills necessary to pursue their current jobs
  * 90% agreed or strongly agreed that it gave opportunity to pursue future goals
  * 60% of these students are working towards pursuing a licensure.
* 64.71% first generation college students,
* 47.06% either had lived experience as a consumer or a family member
* Age range is 25-54 years
* 83% identified as White/Caucasian, 11.11% as Native American and 11.11% as Hispanic or Latino
96.3% of students (all but one) would participate in the program again!
Lessons learned

- Not all faculty will be on board for delivering higher education in an alternate format
  - Allow them time to come around
- Student feedback – what works best for them!
  - Implementing student feedback
- Student needs are different than traditional students
  - Integration back into academia
  - Demanding lives
  - Work with undergraduate students before they come to the university
Challenges

* State supported social work programs are expensive to the institution

* More expensive in general
  * students need extensive advising and nurturing before and during their educational journey

* Extensive outreach and Recruitment
  * Appropriate advising and follow-up
  * Travel time, individual academic plans, and navigating the application process
Plans for sustaining after WET funding ends?

- CSU, Chico CalSWEC Title IV-E funding will continue
- The CSU, Chico School of Social work is committed to providing financial support for instruction
- Dean’s Office support the administrative staff position
- Working on building strategies for sustaining the DL coordinator position