



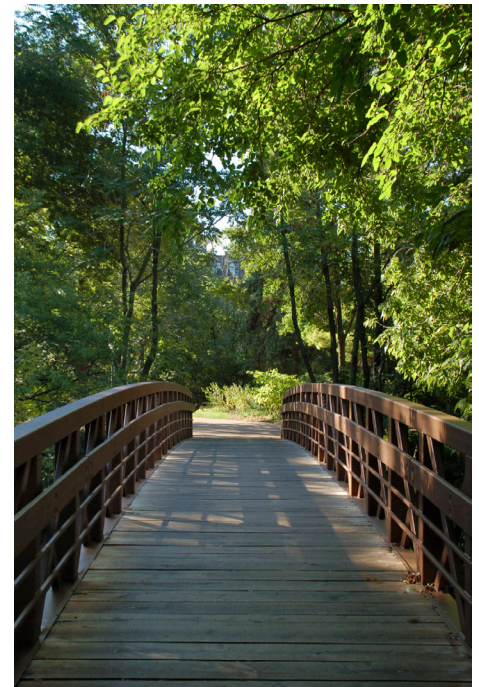
## Helping faculty develop a blueprint for a customized Path to Licensure program

*ASWB's new Path to Licensure Institute includes a three-day intensive at ASWB offices in Culpeper, Virginia, May 23-25, program implementation at the scholar's school of social work in the fall, and completion of social work regulation-specific research by August 2020*

The Path to Licensure program was created to provide an infusion of licensure and professional regulation information into schools of social work in an ongoing manner so that students gain an understanding of why regulation is an essential component of professional practice. Faculty interest in the program has more than doubled over the last year, from 70 schools at the end of 2015 to 156 schools in December 2016. Brand new in 2017, a Path to Licensure Institute will offer six scholars the opportunity to develop a blueprint for their own Path to Licensure program that fits the needs of their school and students. In addition, scholars will be required to conduct a research project on a topic relevant to social work regulation.

"I'm excited!" said Jan Fitts, senior manager of education and training services, which oversees the Path to Licensure program. "We are providing an incredible four-fold opportunity for any faculty of schools of social work: to understand regulation and licensure; to help prepare students for professional practice; to do significant research that will help regulators; and all with the knowledge that the impact will make a big difference."

The curriculum will include an understanding of available ASWB



resources, a practicum on regulations and licensure, development of a plan to teach about regulation that scholars will implement in the coming school year, and identification of a research topic. Before coming to the three-day intensive at ASWB offices in Culpeper, Virginia, in May, scholars will administer a survey to the social work faculty at their school. They will bring the results with them to help them develop their implementation plan. If timing permits, scholars are also encouraged to attend a meeting of their state licensing board as part of their preparation.

Scholars are expected to implement a Path to Licensure program in the fall. To help measure the success of their programs, faculty will conduct pre- and post-surveys of their students at the beginning and end of the school year. Research projects approved by ASWB will be ongoing and due no later than August 2020. It is expected that results of their research will provide information to regulators in a way that will be substantiated and useful.

Two distinguished consultants will teach and mentor participants. They bring a wealth of experience in both regulation and education: ASWB past president Dorinda Noble, Ph.D., LCSW, former director of the school of social work at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, who ran a Path to Licensure pilot program at the school in 2013; and Deana Morrow, Ph.D., LPC, LCSW, LISW-CP, ACSW, a former member of the North Carolina regulatory board, who is currently the director of the social work department at Winthrop University in South Carolina. Access to these experts will be a great asset to the scholars.

When asked about the Path to Licensure Institute, ASWB Chief Executive Officer Mary Jo Monahan said, “We are proud to launch this initiative. It is a concrete example of providing services to the social work regulatory community and helping to advance safe, ethical practices.” By fostering partnerships between social work schools and their jurisdictional regulatory boards, the Path to Licensure program can provide a bridge that helps faculty and students connect education and practice within that jurisdiction.

## Please share!

The Path to Licensure Institute is accepting applications through January 30, 2017. Only six scholars will be chosen to attend the program. If you know of an educator who is licensed and would be interested in attending, please share this information.

A copy of the application is available for download from ASWB’s website at [www.aswb.org/path](http://www.aswb.org/path).

NOTE: A stipend of \$2,500 for travel and other costs is provided to each scholar selected for the Institute.