

ASWIS Executive Committee Platform Statement

I am excited to accept the nomination to serve as Secretary for the Alliance of Social Workers in Sports (ASWIS). As an early-career scholar and practitioner, I am committed to advancing the specialty of sport social work through research, practice, and service. The role of secretary offers an opportunity to contribute to the continued growth of ASWIS and to support the Executive Committee.

I have been involved with ASWIS for eight years, especially through the Early Scholars Committee. However, over the last year and a half, I have actively participated and taken on multiple leadership roles within ASWIS. Currently, I serve as co-chair of the Research Committee (alongside Drs. Tarkington Newman and Lauren Beasely), where I have led the development of a research series and supported student-led initiatives through the Early Scholar Committee. Additionally, I have served as co-chair of the Symposium Planning Committee and contributed to the 11th Annual ASWIS Symposium. More recently, I was invited and accepted to serve on the planning committee for the 12th Annual Symposium. These experiences have strengthened and deepened my understanding of the Alliance's priorities and fueled my commitment to fostering collaboration among sport social work scholars and practitioners.

I also had the opportunity to represent ASWIS at the 71st Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) annual Conference in Denver, CO, where I was one of four ASWIS representatives tabling. During this time, I interacted with current and potential members, promoted ASWIS resources, and built connections within the broader social work, research, and teaching communities. These service experiences with ASWIS show my dedication to increasing its visibility and impact.

Currently, as an Assistant Professor in the College of Social Work at the University of Kentucky, I focus on promoting the health and wellbeing of youth and college student-athletes by exploring the roles of social workers in these areas and leveraging sport for positive development. I supervise undergraduate and graduate social work students through research and practicum experiences. My practical and research experiences include developing, implementing, and facilitating sport- and play-based youth programs, as well as working in collegiate athletics to support student-athlete development. These experiences align with ASWIS's mission to promote wellbeing through social work and athletics.

In addition to my scholarly and practical experiences, I bring strong organizational and communication skills essential to the Secretary role. For example, as a PhD student at Purdue University, I managed a Public Health research lab for a principal investigator, scheduling, planning, and documenting all meetings; coordinating tasks for undergraduate and master-level research assistants; and overseeing all lab-related communication. In my role as a graduate assistant for the Purdue University Center for Health Excellence, Quality and Innovation, I regularly initiated and facilitated meetings with community partners and organizations, documented discussions, and strategically organized agendas. These experiences have prepared me to maintain accurate records, circulate minutes, and support the Executive Committee with diligence and attention to detail. Furthermore, my time in collegiate athletics and my current role as an Assistant Professor have reinforced my ability not only to assume administrative responsibilities and exercise strategic leadership, but also to bridge and translate research and practice.

If elected Secretary, I will ensure accurate documentation of Alliance matters, timely communication, and support for the Executive Committee's initiatives. I value the opportunity to contribute to ASWIS's continued growth and to serve members with professionalism, enthusiasm, and curiosity! I appreciate your consideration.