

Platform Statement: Member at-Large

I am honored and excited to have been nominated to serve as a member-at-large on the Executive Committee of the Alliance of Social Workers in Sports (ASWIS). I am currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky College of Social Work. I have been connected to ASWIS since 2018 as a member of the Early Scholar Committee. Since becoming an assistant professor in 2024, I have had the opportunity to engage with and learn from ASWIS even more, and I've enjoyed it! My intent is that this platform demonstrates why I am interested in serving as a member-at-large for ASWIS and how I can contribute to ASWIS as a professional organization.

As an interdisciplinary scholar, I am informed by my practice experiences in sport for development and college athletics. My scholarship interests center on advancing health, wellbeing, and positive youth development among youth (ages 10-24) and college student-athletes, with particular attention to leveraging sport and play as meaningful contexts for development and community engagement. Outside of academia, I have over ten years of experience in after-school and youth sport programming and college athletics, which continues to inform my teaching, research, community-engaged initiatives, and involvement with professional organizations such as ASWIS. Specifically, I see ASWIS as a vital part of advancing this work by connecting professionals, building knowledge, and continuing to integrate social work values/social workers across sport settings and with athletes of all ages.

Over the past two years, I have served on the ASWIS Symposium Planning Committee and co-chaired the Research Committee. Through these roles, I have contributed to ASWIS's growth, supported research collaboration, and fostered connections among ASWIS members. I would be excited to build on this service to ASWIS as a Member-at-Large and contribute to its broader strategic direction. As a potential member of the executive board, I would continue building a connected, accessible, engaged professional community that advances sport social work through practice, research, and education. As the new executive board updates the strategic plan, I would like to identify ways to support members across career stages and professional settings. I would bring three priorities to this work:

1. **Inform ASWIS Strategic Direction Through Membership Perspectives.** As the executive committee updates the strategic plan, I would support efforts to translate member feedback into actionable priorities and identify opportunities to strengthen member involvement, address barriers to participation, and evaluate organizational progress toward organizational goals.
2. **Build Connections Beyond the Annual Symposium.** Drawing on my two years of service on the Symposium Planning Committee, I would like to explore ways to sustain connections made at the symposium by supporting ongoing collaboration, conversation, and resource sharing among members across research and practice.

As a member-at-Large, I would bring a collaborative, research-informed perspective, committee service experience, and a commitment to listening to and representing the membership. I am excited to serve ASWIS and help advance our shared goal of promoting individual and community wellbeing by integrating social work and sport. I appreciate your time and consideration.