

Hi, everyone. I'm Kelli. I am currently trailblazing Sport Social Work at Indiana University in their Office of Counseling and Sport Psychology as the only Social Worker on staff.

I have been a member of ASWIS since its origination. I presented at the very first conference in Denver at Metropolitan State in 2015 before we were even an organization.

I have been nominated for a Member-At-Large seat and I am honored.

In recent years, I took a break from serving on the board to pursue graduate-level teaching and my LCSW licensure and CMPC certifications. I am pleased to say I now teach a class I created in the School of Public Health, and I am now an LCSW, CMPC, and have the time and space to re-engage with the Alliance in a more active and participatory way.

As part of the Alliance's Vision, "*to integrate social work practice into all realms of sport*", I have found myself attempting to do that within our athletic department and want to continue participating at a higher level with a national organization that continues to find ways to do it.

One of the ways I hope to add value to the board and the organization is through the work I am able to do daily. And while I recognize every institution is different and not every place is like Indiana, being "in the trenches" as the saying goes, is useful.

Another way I'd like to add value is from the years of professional experience I have prior to being at Indiana. I was a high school and middle school track and field coach for 20 years; I was a school social worker for 10 years and did work in a community mental health center and at an outdoor wilderness camp right out of grad school. All those adventures have given me vast understanding of systems, of inequity, of the deep need and demand for social work expertise in a myriad of settings. Especially in athletics. I have a specific kind of expertise that can provide wisdom, a broad knowledge base, and perspective.

In my current position, I consistently receive inquiries about what it is I do and how to do it from prospective students. It brings me great joy to be able to chat with them, encourage them and help this field flourish. I'd like to continue mentoring people newer to the field or curious about the work we do. I would also love ASWIS to be a household name of sorts, for people to NOT be surprised that this organization exists or caught off guard that Sport Social Work is even a thing. While I believe ASWIS is the cutting-edge place for Sport Social Work knowledge and research, I want EVERYONE to know that. I envision our organization being the place people turn to when they need experts about athletic system well-being and advocacy.

At Indiana, I am the Educational & Outreach Liaison on the Mental Health Task Force in Athletics, which puts me in a position of brainstorming and executing initiatives and gathering feedback from student-athletes. It also requires me to work alongside an interdisciplinary team of coaches, athletic trainers, sport administrators, mental health colleagues, sport science experts and academic advisors. All these experiences make me an exceptional candidate to be the Member-At-Large seat on the Executive Board of ASWIS.