

ASWIS Members:

My name is Ellen Raymond, and I am asking for your vote to serve this term as the Student Member At Large.

Like many who found sport social work, athletics have made a deep and lasting impact on my life. In my undergraduate years, I had the opportunity to be a NCAA DII acrobatics and tumbling student-athlete. That experience led me to continue my passion for athletics in my coaching career. From 2016-2025, I was a head coach at two NCAA DIII institutions. While coaching, I completed the NCAA DIII One Team Program and the NCAA DIII Inclusive Leaders Program. Both trainings promote LGBTQ+ inclusion and allyship in college athletics. I also served as a mentor for first year head coaches through the National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association (NCATA) for six years.

I realized during my coaching years that I loved working with athletes. I saw them triumph, struggle, accomplish skills and personal growth beyond their wildest dreams, and also supported some during their rock bottom. I felt that both myself and my institutions were wildly unprepared to provide the level of mental health care and support my athletes were seeking. This realization was the start of my sports social work journey. I am in my final semester of my MSW at the University of Michigan with the goal of becoming a LCSW, SPLSW, and CMPC.

Supporting athletes is an important part of sports social work, and I am very excited to work with individual athletes and teams in the future! But as a former coach, I feel there is a lot of education and support for coaches that sport social workers can focus on at every athletic level. Supporting athletes is what we do, but coaching the coaches is a real challenge! We all know coaches have far reaching influence in micro, mezzo, and macro levels, and I would like to see the Alliance of Social Workers in Sport explore how we can make an impact on coaches as well as athletes!

Thank you for your consideration for this position!