Building School, Family and Community Partnerships

Presenters: Katharine Briar-Lawson, PhD, Professor, School of Social Welfare
Hal Lawson, PhD, Professor, School of Social Welfare

6 Continuing Education Hours for Social Workers

This workshop is for social workers at all levels who are working with school age children and families and seek to connect more with schools or offer more school linked or school based services. It is also designed for school social workers who seek to expand some of their impact with innovative service designs to reach impoverished children and families.

The workshop offers new models as well as service strategies to address poverty along with joblessness and promotes parent empowerment and occupational ladders for parents and youth. Skills to lead interprofessional and community collaboratives will be fostered. New designs and systems for multiservice schools and cradle to career innovations are also presented.

Learning Objectives

Participants will:

- Learn how to plan and implement new partnerships among schools, families, communities, and colleges/universities
- Learn how to expand and transform conventional schools into multi-service schools and community schools
- Develop knowledge and skills for social workers’ roles and responsibilities as boundary-crossing, school-family-community coordinators
- Learn new social work practice models that engage parents and families and position schools as hubs of parent empowerment and family support
- Gain competencies which connect and align student support services and community-based health and social services.
- Prepare social workers to lead interprofessional, team-based collaboratives
- Gain entry-level competencies for cradle-to-career system building leadership

Online registration is required for this event- go to http://tinyurl.com/buildingschool to reserve your spot as space is limited.

Cost: $140 includes morning coffee and lunch ($70 for SSW field instructors).
This event is approved for 6 CE hours.

There are a limited number of free scholarships for current SSW students for this event. Please email if interested: sswceu@albany.edu

University at Albany, School of Social Welfare is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers.
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Katharine Briar-Lawson, PhD, Professor, School of Social Welfare


Briar-Lawson's work in schools has advanced award winning social work led parent engagement, and occupational ladders for parents multiservice (full service) schools, schools as hubs of social and economic development, teacher empowerment and new models for rapid response of social workers to student behavioral health needs.

Hal Lawson, PhD, Professor, School of Social Welfare

Hal A. Lawson is Professor of Educational Administration and Policy Studies and also Professor of Social Welfare. This joint appointment reflects his interests in partnerships among schools, families, community agencies, neighborhood organizations, governments, businesses, and higher education institutions. Partnerships formed to meet the needs of vulnerable populations and their communities and ones involving laypersons’ leadership and expertise, comprise a special priority. These interests span nearly 40 years of teaching, research, consultation, and service in 5 universities in the United States and Canada.

Lawson’s recent grant-related research and development efforts include a family-centered obesity prevention and early intervention program for preschool children and their families; an innovative community school model for school and district turnaround; and a complex policy innovation and evaluation initiative for New York’s consistently, under-performing schools and districts.

In 2013 Lawson was honored by the National School Development Association with a national cooperative leadership award. This award recognized Hal’s research-oriented, consultative services to local school districts.