

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the *Journal of Undergraduate Social Work Research (JUSWR)*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Issue. This journal is a collaborative effort between students, faculty and staff. Undergraduate student editors were highly involved and instrumental in the selection, editing process, and making recommendations for articles to be included in this publication volume. As Senior Editor, Rebecca Dohleman Hawley continues to do a fantastic job of working closely with the editorial board to provide expert guidance through the publication process. Faculty members generously gave of their time to mentor students on research and writing. Dr. Janet D. Carter Black played a crucial role as Undergraduate Research Program Coordinator for the School of Social Work. The team worked together to bring the second issue of the *JUSWR* to fruition.

The *Journal of Undergraduate Social Work Research* is a crucial initiative for the School of Social Work and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, aimed at supporting undergraduate research and scholarly activities. Student opportunities range from serving as a member of a faculty-directed research team or pursuit of their own line of inquiry. Some students elect to submit original creative works that reflect aspects of their richly textured and varied cultural backgrounds, or experiences viewed through their own particular cultural lens. Additionally, students may choose from options to author a manuscript for publication, serve as a peer editor, or present their work at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. Others elect to receive credit toward the Undergraduate Research Certificate Program offered by the Office of Undergraduate Research. All of them make scholarly contributions that strengthen vulnerable populations and provide needed support, as well as further advance the awareness and appreciation of our highly diverse and ever evolving social world.

The second issue of the *Journal of Undergraduate Social Work Research* provides abundant proof of the high quality of undergraduate social work research and the creative reflections that contribute to expanding knowledge on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Lindsey, EdD  
BSW Program Director  
School of Social Work