

**THE PSCSW AWARDS FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE  
APPLICATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Paper: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Clinical Practice Professor and/or Sponsoring  
Professor: \_\_\_\_\_

Email of Clinical Practice Professor and/or Sponsoring  
Professor: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Placement:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I affirm that I am a graduating MSW/MSS Student: \_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

I understand that the award is contingent upon my attendance at the  
PSCSW Annual Dinner, held in late fall: \_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

Religious conflicts which prevent attendance will be honored.



**THE PSCSW AWARDS FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE**

**The PSCSW Awards for Clinical Excellence were established by the Pennsylvania Society for Clinical Social Work to acknowledge the outstanding clinical work of students.** The Awards are presented annually to students who submit a paper for review by distinguished judges. **The program is open to all graduating Master of Social Work Students in Pennsylvania.** The Awards program is dedicated to four distinguished PSCSW leaders who have provided inspiration for future clinicians: Patricia Burland, Mary Montague, Judith Kasser, and Anna Wiggins. The Awards are given to students who demonstrate in their case study the following abilities:

1. to integrate theories of human behavior with practice in clinical social work;
2. to explore clients' problems within a bio-psycho-social context and formulate an assessment;
3. to guide practice interventions systematically, based on theoretical understandings that emerge from the assessment;
4. to understand the meaning of the clinical use of the social work relationship including the use of self;
5. to critique one's work and recognize the need for consultation;
6. to use the literature as an appropriate resource;
7. to reflect on the process of clinical social work intervention including team collaboration and adherence to professional ethics

Papers will be judged by a panel including professors, supervisors, and experienced clinicians. Winners will be notified by phone and email over the summer.

A first prize award for Clinical Excellence will be awarded in the amount of \$500.00. A second prize will be awarded in the amount of \$300.00. A third prize will be awarded in the amount of \$200.00. The winners will also receive free membership in PSCSW for a year following graduation.

**All winners will be honored at the PSCSW Annual Meeting**, which occurs in late fall. The meeting will be held in the greater Philadelphia area. The professors and supervisors of the award winners will be invited as guests to the dinner. **Winners must be present to receive their award as the ceremony will celebrate their achievement.**

The awards convey significant recognition upon the recipients within the professional social work community. **PSCSW encourages all students to submit clinical papers for consideration.**

For additional questions please contact Merin Wexler at [merinwexler411@gmail.com](mailto:merinwexler411@gmail.com).

**The Deadline is May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Pennsylvania Society for Clinical Social Work  
P.O. Box 147, Darby, PA 19023  
email: [pscsw@pscsw.org](mailto:pscsw@pscsw.org) website: [www.pscsw.org](http://www.pscsw.org)**

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE PSCSW AWARDS FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE**

These guidelines are applicable to students working in all field settings, including those offering single session or short-term case assignments, as well as those providing opportunity for ongoing client and/or family contact. They are applicable to the student's role as primary service provider or support team member, and to interventions with individuals or families. Judges will take into account the written quality of the paper including style, grammar, organization, focus and flow.

### **I. Introduction to Practice Setting**

- A. Description of the practice setting and focus of service.
- B. Community context, socio-economic and socio-cultural description of the population served.

### **II. Case presentation**

- A. Presenting problem/precipitating event that triggered individual/couple/family contact with the practice setting.
- B. Bio-psycho-social assessment of the individual/couple/family.
  1. Biological: age, sex, physical appearance, physical health, level of intellectual functioning, cognitive deficits. If the client is a child, include developmental history. Other disorders that may have biological effects such as eating disorders and substance abuse, history of trauma, in individual, couple or family.
  2. Psychological: mood/affect, level of psychological functioning, evidence of psychopathology, family history of mental illness, substance abuse.
  3. Social Functioning: client's familial and social relationships, sexual and gender identity, ethno-cultural identity, economic situation.
- C. Clinician's initial assessment of client and client's problems including DSM-V diagnosis if indicated. Clinician may choose to include a systemic model for assessment of a couple or family.

### **III. Review of the literature**

- A. Carefully documented theories relevant to case study.
- B. Clinical approaches and techniques utilized by presenter.
- C. A rationale for treatment approach chosen for this client based on clinician's assessment and the literature review.

### **IV. Process of treatment**

- A. Treatment goals and expectations of progress (including limitations pertaining to the function of the practice setting, the role of the clinician, the treatment time frame, client's motivation, etc.).
- B. Description of the clinical relationship, including examples of the working alliance from clinical sessions, clinician's use of self, transference and counter-transference. These concepts can be applied to clients utilizing brief interventions or ongoing social work services.
- C. Description of collaboration with other treatment team members, or professionals, if applicable.
- D. Discussion of client's response to treatment noting intrapsychic and interpersonal growth and changes in external functioning.
- E. Discussion of how the NASW/PSCSW Code of Ethics was able to be integrated into the social work intervention process.

### **V. Use of Supervision**

- A. Description of case-related questions, self-awareness, self-growth and guidance within the supervision process.
- B. Relationship with the supervisor including, if applicable, any challenges within the supervision process and how those were negotiated.

### **VI. Conclusion**

Evaluation of clinical work. What might you have done differently, what went well, what might your goals/expectations be if you could continue to work with this client?

## **PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION**

Students who are interested in being considered for the *PSCSW Awards for Clinical Excellence* should mail the application form on the back page. To submit an application you must:

1. Complete the application form.
2. Complete one case study paper, 20 pages or less. The paper should preserve the client and agency's anonymity and disguise all identifying details. Please apply a descriptive title, include a reference page, and utilize APA format throughout the paper. Please adhere to the guidelines provided as closely as possible in writing the paper, as the judges will reference them in their review. If your clinical work does not correspond to a particular guideline, please integrate an explanation into the paper. Candidates may find that papers written for course work, with revisions that follow the guidelines, will demonstrate the clinical skills required for the Award.
3. Submit one copy of a letter by hardcopy providing written permission from the agency, for use of the case study accompanying the application. Please mail to:  
  
**Kristina Snyder, Administrative Assistant**  
**PSCSW, P.O. Box 147, Darby, PA 19023**
4. Submit your paper by email, attaching the application form and paper in Word format, and send to Kristina Snyder at [pscsw@pscsw.org](mailto:pscsw@pscsw.org).

Please indicate to agency administrators that identifying details about the case are disguised and the paper is not published by PSCSW but may be available for PSCSW members to read upon request. If agency administrators are not available, please contact the awards program facilitator.

Put **"PSCSW Paper Competition"** in the subject line. You will get a confirmation email. You **must** send the agency permission letter by mail, postmarked by the deadline. Please keep PSCSW informed of any changes in your phone number or email address.

**The deadline is May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Pennsylvania Society for Clinical Social Work  
P.O. Box 147, Darby, PA 19023  
(215) 942-0775 email: [pscsw@pscsw.org](mailto:pscsw@pscsw.org) website: [www.pscsw.org](http://www.pscsw.org)