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CSWE Reaffirms Social Work Program Accreditation

KEUKA PARK, N.Y.—There's no such thing as a sure thing.

Or is there?

Consider Keuka College's baccalaureate social work program.

Every eight years since 1972, the program has undergone a reaccreditation review by the Commission on Social Work Education (CSWE). The most recent review was conducted earlier this year, and the College recently received word that its accreditation had again been reaffirmed.

"Being accredited by CSWE is vital if our program is to continue to flourish," said Gail Roberts, associate professor of social work. "It's particularly important to our students, whether they elect to begin professional work or pursue graduate study after earning their bachelor's degrees."

Earning a bachelor's or master's degree from an accredited social work program is required of social workers seeking licensure from the National Association of Social Workers. Graduating from an accredited program is also a prerequisite for students seeking admission to accelerated master's of social work programs (which award degrees in one year instead of two).

CSWE is a national association that "preserves and enhances the quality of social work education for practice that promotes the goals of individual and community well-being and social justice." CSWE pursues this mission through setting and maintaining policy and program standards, accrediting bachelor's and master's degree programs in social work, promoting research and faculty development, and advocating for social work education.

Roberts said the social work department was required to conduct a thorough internal assessment and write a self-study as part of the CSWE reaccreditation review process.

"We outlined what we teach and why, and how we measure our effectiveness," explained Roberts, who said the social program reflects the College's commitment to experiential education and social responsibility. "We emphasize a theory to practice education and the value of service to the community. Social work students are involved in the local community and the greater Finger Lakes region through a variety of activities and educational programs."