

Counselors for Social Justice Student Chapter Information

Welcome and Introduction:

Welcome to Counselors for Social Justice! We are excited that you have chosen to establish a student chapter of CSJ. As you begin we would like to orient you to the organization and some of our hopes for the future of social justice in the counseling field.

The mission of Counselors for Social Justice is to work to promote social justice in our society through confronting oppressive systems of power and privilege that affect professional counselors and our clients and to assist in the positive change in our society through the professional development of counselors.

After reading this you might be wondering what is unique about social justice in counseling. Social justice counseling represents a multifaceted approach to counseling in which practitioners strive to simultaneously promote human development and the common good through addressing challenges related to both individual and distributive justice. Social justice counseling includes empowerment of the individual as well as active confrontation of injustice and inequality in society as they impact clientele as well as those in their systemic contexts. In doing so, social justice counselors direct attention to the promotion of four critical principles that guide their work; equity, access, participation, and harmony. This work is done with a focus on the cultural, contextual, and individual needs of those served.

Benefits of becoming a CSJ student chapter/ CSJ member

Joining Counselors for Social Justice comes with many benefits to the counseling field, your community, the national and global movements for social justice, and many other. Some of the benefits we have identified and that are important to us include:

- Staying current on social justice oriented trends and policy issues in the field
- Subscription to the Journal for Social Action in Counseling and Psychology
- Access to the Activist newsletter
- Inclusion in the conversation occurring on the CSJ listserv
- Networking opportunities with social justice minded graduate students, faculty, and professionals
- Opportunities to engage in social justice leadership skills
- Opportunity to apply for the CSJ Social Justice Counseling Grant

Helpful Points

The Counselors for Social Justice organization is dedicated to social justice. We see the establishment of charter chapters as serving an important role in enhancing counselors and students and the communities they serve. Towards this end, we offer our assistance to helping

you create and maintain a successful University Student Chapter of CSJ. Please contact CSJ if you would like more information or have questions about forming a student chapter of CSJ.

We recommend reading the following article. It will provide some ideas and insight in the development of a student chapter of CSJ in the context of the educational environment.

Peggy Brady-Amoon, P., Makhija, N., Dixit, V., and Dator, J. (2012). Social Justice: Pushing Past Boundaries in Graduate Training. *Journal for Social Action in Counseling and Psychology* 85 Volume 4(2), 85-98.

Becoming a CSJ student chapter is different than becoming an official university student group. We strongly encourage student level chapters to also become official university student groups. Being an official university student group brings the resources and benefits of being 'official'. However, this is not a requirement of becoming a chartered University Student Chapter of CSJ.

Having a central point of communication is vital to the successful establishment and maintenance of a student chapter. We recommend developing a student chapter Facebook page or similar social media. This helps in developing a sense of community and allows for easy dissemination of information, ideas, and for organizing events/meetings.

You can find our website here: counseling-csj.org

The CSJ Membership Committee oversees the chapter charter process. The Membership committee is your point of contact for forming chapters and is tasked with tracking chapter charters and CSJ membership. They are available to assist you in this process.

CSJ welcomes you! If there is anything we can do to assist you in this process please let us know!

Sincerely,
Counselors for Social Justice Membership Committee