

2015-2016 Missouri Friend of School Social Work

Dean Edward F. Lawlor, PhD



Dr. Edward Lawlor, Dean of the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, has been a longtime supporter of SSWAM's efforts to obtain Certification of School Social Workers from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

When SSWAM's 2009 Certification Proposal was initially accepted by MACCE and then subsequently rejected by the Commissioner at the time, Dean Lawlor stepped in to personally and directly assist our efforts to secure certification for school social workers.

Between 2010 and 2013, in response to a multiple different request from DESE, Dr. Lawlor was each time able to quickly procure joint letters of support from several Missouri university School of Social Work as well as Education departments including: Washington University, St. Louis University, University of Missouri-St. Louis, and University of Missouri, which, over the course of time, led to several face to face meetings between DESE, SSWAM, and university representatives. Subsequently, in 2012, Dean Lawlor successfully advocated for the passage of HB 1563, which allowed Missouri university graduates the ability to be certified in other states through a verification process.

Although the goal of certification has not yet been met in Missouri, SSWAM would like to recognize and thank Dean Lawlor for the tireless and relentless support and advocacy he has shown the profession.

