Faculty Spotlight: Kate M. Chaffin

Kate M. Chaffin, MSSW, LAPSW, is Director of the Online MSSW Program and Professor of Practice in the College of Social Work. Kate completed her MSSW degree here at UT in 2004, and then worked as a forensic social worker in the court system until 2008. She then earned her PhD in social work and became a faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) before returning to her alma mater, where she joined the faculty in 2019. Kate is a tenured associate professor in the College of Social Work and Director of the Online MSSW Program. In addition to her work in the classroom, Kate is an experienced and innovative leader in the field of social work education and practice. Her work has been recognized with numerous awards and grants, and she is a sought-after speaker and consultant on issues related to social work education and practice.

Kate also initiated a simulation, prototypic a decision aid in a course of Online MSSW (2009) program that focuses on teaching and learning. This prototypic simulation, called “The Case of Craig Armstrong,” focuses on how to navigate complex and conflicting pieces of information in one’s work as a social worker.

Kate also volunteers in simulation, prototypic a decision aid in a course of Online MSSW (2009) program that focuses on teaching and learning. This prototypic simulation, called “The Case of Craig Armstrong,” focuses on how to navigate complex and conflicting pieces of information in one’s work as a social worker.

In 2002, Kate earned her doctorate in social work from UNCG, where she continued her work in simulation and mentoring. She has since become a well-respected leader in the field, known for her innovative and effective teaching methods.

Kate is an active member of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) and has served on the Board of Directors for the Organization of Social Work Training Agencies (OSWTA). She is currently the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) and has served on the Board of Directors for the Organization of Social Work Training Agencies (OSWTA).

Kate is a member of the editorial board for the Journal of Social Work Education and has served as a reviewer for numerous other journals. She is also a member of the ASWB’s Commission on Social Work Education and the OSWTA’s Commission on Accreditation.

Kate has received numerous awards for her contributions to social work education, including the George Warren Brown Award for Distinguished Teaching in Social Work Practice from the ASWB. She has also been recognized for her leadership in simulation and mentoring, including the ASWB’s Outstanding Contributions to the Advancement of Social Work Education award.

Kate is currently working on a new simulation project that focuses on how to navigate ethical dilemmas in one’s work as a social worker. The project is funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health and is expected to be completed in 2022.