Dear Title IV-E student:

Congratulations and welcome to the California Social Work Education Center’s (CalSWEC’s) Title IV-E Stipend Program! You are joining over 6,000 MSW students who have received Title IV-E stipends and tuition support since 1992, and over 300 BASW students who have received this support since 2004.

CalSWEC, located at the School of Social Welfare at the University of California at Berkeley, is a partnership of 22 California schools of social work, public human service agencies and other related professional organizations that works to facilitate the integration of education and practice to assure effective, culturally competent service delivery and leadership to the people of California. The intent of the Title IV-E Stipend Program is to increase the number of social workers employed in public child welfare agencies thereby assisting those agencies in providing professional and expert services to California’s most vulnerable children and families.

CalSWEC’s central office includes a staff of professionals who work with me to manage the Title IV-E stipend program. They are: Elizabeth Gilman, Curriculum and Policy Analyst; Donna Thoreson, Workforce Development Coordinator; and Tim Wohltmann, Distance Education Specialist. These are the core Title IV-E staff that provide curriculum enhancements, support for field instruction and American Indian recruitment, distance education, and graduate hiring preparation. Additionally, Drs. Sandhya Rao Hermon and Susan Jacquet are responsible for the CalSWEC program evaluation.

CalSWEC also develops and maintains California’s common core curriculum for public child welfare in-service training. Melissa Connelly, director of the Child Welfare In-Service Training Project, works closely with the five regional training academies (RTAs) to coordinate these efforts. The RTAs provide new worker and ongoing training to public child welfare workers. As you enter the public child welfare workforce upon your graduation, you will have opportunities for professional development through your regional training academy.

In spring 2016, CalSWEC, in cooperation with the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), will sponsor our annual Title IV-E Student Day. This statewide training event provides an opportunity for CalSWEC Title IV-E students to attend workshops on current
practices and policy in child welfare and to network with professionals and other students. Student representatives from each school will attend two statewide project coordinator meetings to plan this event. As you begin the year, you may be called upon to be a representative. Your project coordinator will have information on this.

Your school has a team to support you through the Title IV-E Program, including your dean/director, Title IV-E project coordinator, classroom and field faculty, and administrative support staff. Throughout undergraduate and graduate school, and your employment obligation period, you will interact directly with these university staff and faculty. Together we wish you much success in your BASW/MSW program and your career in public child welfare.

Our Frequently Asked Questions for the MSW and BASW programs can be found on our website at http://calswec.berkeley.edu/title-iv-e-stipend-program. Please take the time to review them, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to talk to your IV-E project coordinator or others involved with your program.

Best of luck, and thank you for your commitment to social work and public child welfare.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Shin, LCSW
Interim Director
Title IV-E Stipend Program