

**UVM Department of Social Work
Field Instructor Awards 2018 - 2019
Gina D'Ambrosio
Ron Turner**

Each year, the Department of Social Work designates one Field Instructor to receive our Field Instructor Award. This award is given to a social worker in a community agency for distinguished service as an educator in preparing students in the field for social work practice. This year the award went to two of our Field Instructors, Gina D'Ambrosio and Ron Turner.

Gina will be moving into her 9th year as a field supervisor next fall and is being honored for her exceptional work with our students at the JOBS Program – a joint venture between Spectrum Youth and Family Services and the HowardCenter. Gina D'Ambrosio will you please come up.

Gina began supervising our MSW students in 2011. Her unwavering commitment to relieving (at least some of) the pain and suffering of youth who may be without a home or wandering between homes or just lost in a world where home is hard to define is inspirational to say the least. Our experience of Gina is that she easily passes on her passion for the work and is a student of our curriculum by engaging students to show the connection between classroom and field.

The Student Voice includes these comments:

- Gina really gave me room to try some of my ideas with clients. She provided a framework for our supervisory discussions that instilled trust in me enough to take risks.
- Gina really knew how to challenge me when I thought I knew it all. Her quiet wisdom about the work came through only after she listened deeply to me.
- Gina wanted me to have a good experience so my assignments were really thought through.
- I had so much fun in supervision with Gina. I know a sense of humor isn't a requirement but it should be.
- Gina cared about me – not just me, as a person, but my experience as a student and a learner.

So, on behalf of the Department of Social Work and the College of Education and Social Services at the University of Vermont, we presented Gina D'Ambrosio the 2018 – 2019 Field Instructor Award.

Our second recipient will be moving into his fourth year as a field instructor next fall and is being honored for his exceptional work with our students at Champlain Community Services.

When I met Ron over almost 4 years ago, I walked into the agency and he welcomed me with great enthusiasm, walked me around their very cool space, and talked with me about his journey to social work. His passion for wanting to share the profession of social work with young people overwhelmed me. So much so, that within 20 or 30 minutes we were

talking about creating a “student unit” in the agency. It was clear that he wanted to help shore up the students as they put theory to practice in the field.

So, he's worked with our undergraduate and graduate students and has received wonderful evaluations for the past three years. He was nominated by two of our faculty liaisons who have worked closely with him. The liaisons talked about how conscientious he is and how focused he is on student learning and reflection. One liaison recalled how he had the undergraduate and graduate student working together to solve a real organizational dilemma and how practices within the organization changed because of their work.

The Student Voice includes these comments:

- Ron’s teaching on self-determination and advocacy really helped ground me in this work. I can see how I will use it in my future quite easily – no matter what population I work with.
- I love the narrative approach introduced to me by Ron. He values the client story and decenters himself while raising up client voices.
- Ron was super accessible and supportive.
- Ron can ask some challenging questions – he’s tough with expecting you will think deeply and not just keep doing the same thing over and over again.

So, on behalf of the Department of Social Work and the College of Education and Social Services at the University of Vermont, we presented Ron Turner the 2018 – 2019 Field Instructor Award.