CSUEB’S MSW Department Awarded Accreditation Through 2010

The Master’s of Social Work Department at California State University, East Bay has been granted accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education.

The program was granted accreditation retroactive to the 2003-04 academic year, when it enrolled its first students. The accreditation remains in effect until 2010.

“The development of an MSW program at CSUEB represents the culmination of the very best in terms of community and university cooperation and, as such concretizes this university’s mission of working to meet the needs of communities in its service area,” said Terry Jones, chair of the university’s Department of Social Work.

Over a three-year period, CSUEB worked with both Alameda and Contra Costa counties as well as a host of community-based agencies to build an MSW program to meet the social work training needs of the region.

The program’s faculty developed a curriculum to respond to the area’s needs for an increase in social workers trained for an urban, multicultural environment. Jones said that curriculum had two concentrations: community mental health and children, youth and families.

With the support of CSU administration and consultation with other MSW programs, the new Cal State East Bay program earned its accreditation from the council and the national recognition that comes with it, according to Jones.

“While the accreditation effort was led by me and a very hard working faculty, success could not have been achieved without the cooperation of numerous academic committees, including the Cal State East Bay Academic Senate, and the special attention and support of Alden Reimonenq, dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences, and Interim Provost Jim Kelly,” Jones said. “Their support during very difficult budget times was truly exceptional, and helped tremendously in guiding the program through the many toils and snares of the bureaucratic process.”

The Cal State East Bay MSW program’s accreditation provides a needed service to many Bay Area communities suffering from a shortage of MSW trained social workers, according to Jones.

“This is evidenced by the rapidity with which our graduates have been hired over the two year existence of the MSW program,” Jones noted. “What accreditation will do is add legitimacy to our program in the social work community both locally and nationally. More importantly, it will ensure that the profession and both public and private agencies in the greater Bay Area will have an increased number of badly needed MSW trained social work professionals to provide leadership in the delivery of social work services.”