**MSW Spotlight: Q&A with Craig Stanley**

*by* ***FSU Online***

June 8, 2017

**Craig Stanley, Ph.D.:** Currently, I serve as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. I have been in this role for about two and a half years. I am responsible for oversight of the operations for the College’s academic programs to include our BSW, [online MSW](https://onlinemsw.fsu.edu/online-master-social-work), and PhD programs as well as our Certificate Programs. I also teach classes for undergraduate and graduate students.

**Q:** Why did you decide to take the program online?

**A:** In Fall 2003, we were the first Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited program to gain approval for an [Online MSW Program](https://onlinemsw.fsu.edu/online-master-social-work). Janet Berry, the director of distance learning programs, had been running off-campus programs that required students to meet at off-site locations throughout Florida to participate in their courses on a weekend format. These programs still did not provide a great amount of access for students who did not live close to one of our off-campus sites.

As internet technology improved, Janet pushed for an [online MSW program](https://onlinemsw.fsu.edu/online-master-social-work) in order to provide greater access to a high-quality [MSW Program](https://onlinemsw.fsu.edu/online-master-social-work) for Florida residents. She then expanded to areas outside of Florida to provide access to several rural areas that were underserved by [MSW programs](https://onlinemsw.fsu.edu/online-master-social-work). In the beginning, we served very rural areas.

When I took over as the distance learning programs director in 2006, I realized that there was an opportunity to grow...I also realized that students who lived in more densely populated areas had commitments and obligations that made attending our campus-based programs difficult if not impossible. Building on Janet’s vision of providing access, we expanded our areas of coverage in order to improve access and grow enrollments.