

## **The School of Social Work Graduation and Hooding Ceremony**

The School of Social Work Graduation and Hooding Ceremony should not be confused with the WMU Commencement. This ceremony is organized and funded by the WMU Master of Social Work Student Organization and the undergraduate student organization, Eta Eta, at the Kalamazoo campus, and the Extended University Program and student fund raising at the Grand Rapids campus. It involves only social work faculty, social work graduates, and their families and friends. This is a time to celebrate the social work profession and the accomplishments of our students. This ceremony is typically held the Friday evening before the April graduation commencement for Kalamazoo campus students, and the Friday evening before the June graduation commencement for Grand Rapids students.

This is an event that is fun for all and should not be missed. It serves as a great way for the School to honor you and your families in all that they have done to help you survive your busy life as a graduate or undergraduate student. It also gives family the opportunity to meet with your instructors and cohorts, to put a face to all the stories they may have heard. While this event can not be described as “formal”, students and faculty are asked to wear their graduation regalia (cap, gown, hood, and tassel) for the ceremony. All students will be presented individually, and all honors and awards will be announced. Additionally, graduate students will be “hooded” by faculty as an honor for graduating with a Master of Social Work degree.

Students are asked (and sometimes begged) to help in the fund raising and the planning for this ceremony throughout the year. The student organizations always need help, so please help when you can.

### **WMU School of Social Work Regalia**

The academic costume is a traditional black cap and gown. It is **required** for your participation in the Commencement and the School of Social Work Hooding and Graduation Celebration. Caps are worn with a colored tassel indicating the degree being awarded (social work is citron). Masters candidates will also receive a hood with the color indicating field of study (social work is citron).

### **Regalia History**

The use of academic dress stems from costumes worn in universities in the 14th and 15th centuries, particularly at Cambridge and Oxford in England. Since colonial times, it has been worn in the United States and was standardized by an Intercollegiate Code in 1895. The major distinguishing characteristics of the gowns are the sleeves, styled in the following fashions: bachelor, long pointed; master, oblong; and doctor and specialist, bell shaped. The doctor's gown has a velvet collar, facing and three bars on the sleeves. The specialist's gown differs from a doctor's in that it has no sleeve bars. Masters, specialists and doctors wear hoods lined with the official colors of the university from which the degree is granted. They vary in size and shape to indicate the several degrees. The doctor's hood is the largest and most lavishly decorated. The color of the velvet that circles the opening of the hood shows the degree earned-light blue for doctor of education, dark blue for doctor of philosophy, and peacock blue for doctor of public administration. Caps are mortar boards with the tassel worn over the left front quadrant. The tassel's color indicates the academic program area.