Dear Student:

Welcome to the School of Social Work at Western Michigan University. We are proud to have you as an entering BSW or MSW student. You are now a future social worker and member of a proud profession focused on the advancement of social and economic justice and well-being for individuals, families, and communities.

I want to provide you with some valuable information as we prepare for the fall semester. Enclosed you will find a flier that will introduce you to our School’s faculty and staff. I invite you to stop by our School at any time to get to know us and to become involved in the life of your new academic home.

Special opportunities for getting involved in the life of the School include:

**Trauma specialization and trauma focused coursework:** The School of Social Work now offers a Trauma Specialization for MSW students in the direct practice concentration. Please see the attached flier for course offerings and field placement opportunities as part of this new specialization.

**Participation in school committees and student organizations:** Consider being part of the Eta Eta Sigma undergraduate student association, the Student Association for MSW Students (MSWSO) a member of one of the School of Social Work committees such as admissions, student services, or curricular subcommittees. WMU also has close to 800 student organizations one or more of which may match your particular personal or professional interests. See attached flier for more information.

**Faculty-led study abroad:** Several study abroad courses are offered for undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Health and Human Services. These include courses to Guatemala, the Netherlands, Ireland, Mexico, and Senegal. See attached flier for the Spring 2016 offering IPE 3050/6050: Community Health and Permaculture with travel to Lake Atitlan in Guatemala over Spring Break, led by Jennifer Harrison. Also look for additional domestic study opportunities in social work to Puerto Rico, and Chicago led by faculty Dee Sherwood, Roxanna Duntley-Matos, and Marian Tripplett. These are offered during the Spring and the Summer. These will help you learn about social work in the United States and other countries.

I encourage you to contact our faculty members, staff or me by e-mail, phone, or face to face during a personal visit. We want to support your success in the social work program, and your future pursuits in our shared profession. Please keep your eyes out for e-mails about student services, field education, unique course opportunities, and service or study opportunities within the School of Social Work.

Sincerely;

Héctor Luis Díaz, Ph.D., Director and Professor