

Emeline Homonoff Presentation
by Bill Fisher, vice president of the North American Network of Field Educators and Directors
CSWE APM
Tampa, FL
10/25/2014

It is my honor and pleasure to be the person from NANFED, representing New England and the New England Consortium of Field Directors, to present Dr. Emeline Homonoff, faculty emeritus from Simmons College, with the very first *Dean Schneck Memorial Award for Distinction in Field Education*.

When word of Emmie's retirement became known, a wave of comment and accolades rippled through the social work education community. As Nicole Frankel wrote in *The Field Educator*, the online journal on field education, sentiments that came to mind about Emmie and were shared among colleagues and students were: Fierce, Compassionate, Inspiring, Welcoming, Artful, Imaginative, Supportive, Joyful, a Scholar, a Visionary. Indeed, all of these qualities have come together in the online *The Field Educator*, the journal sponsored by Simmons College and for which Emmie served as a founding editor. *The Field Educator* has forever changed the landscape of field education, and social work education, by providing open access to quality peer-reviewed articles related to research, practice, and administration to field educators and others.

It has also elevated the visibility and value of field education. It has quickly become a valued means to communicate innovations and build social work field education community. The online journal, which will be available far into the future, is among Emmie's great enduring legacies, and it will become even more valuable as a disseminator of information over the years.

Emmie also wrote one of the most elegant testaments to support field education as signature pedagogy in her landmark 2008 article in the journal *The Clinical Supervisor*, which used interviews of past recipients of NANFED's Heart of Social Work Award to determine the themes and qualities that make for excellence in field supervision. This important article, which will stand the test of time because of its combination of wisdom and practice, is a must-read for all social work educators, including new-as well as seasoned – supervisors. Scholarship that enhances social work education is another of Emmie's legacies, and she continues to encourage us all to take part in research and writing on field education.

And then there are the students. After 25 years in social work education, Emmie has worked with hundreds, perhaps thousands, of students. As one said in the *Field Educator*: "*Her support is unquestionable.*" Aspiring social workers have benefitted from Emmie's support, wisdom, and scholarship and become better and excellent social work practitioners because of it.

Students are also your legacy, Emmie, and they are out there, remembering what you taught them, making the world a better place, and touching lives in positive ways, as you touched them.

All of these, and more, are reasons to celebrate your 25 years in social work education with the first *Dean Schneck Memorial Award for Distinction in Field Education*.

Congratulations!