

Description & History

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The California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) is unique in the annals of both social work education and the public social services in the state and the nation.

“CalSWEC is an innovative and bold program. If it is successful, it may establish a significant new pattern for professional social work in the United States.”

Before its founding, never before had the entire social work academic community and the public social services joined forces to improve the education and training of social workers for all the publicly supported social services.

CalSWEC's beginnings are described in "Where We Came From" in [Part 1 of *CalSWEC: Our First Decade: 1990-2000*](#).

The movement to advance social work's commitment to the poor and the services upon which they depended was led by [Dr. Harry](#)

[Specht](#), *pictured below*, the Dean of the [School of Social Welfare](#) at the [University of California, Berkeley](#) from 1977 to 1995.

