

Title: Associate Professor of Social Work Practicum Education, Assistant Director of Practicum Education

Ruth Cislowski has an accomplished career developing and managing nonprofit social service programs. She has devoted more than 30 years providing services to, and advocating for, vulnerable populations.

Serving in the first class of Peace Corps Volunteers in Bulgaria, she taught English and developed curricula and instructional materials for students in Kyustendil, Bulgaria. Cislowski has experience with local community social service agencies such as Jewish Family Service, where she assisted seniors, people with AIDS and developmentally disabled adults. She served on the staff of Community Partners, where she supported several state-wide initiatives including violence prevention, youth development, and access to technology.

She was instrumental in launching the largest interconnected educational access channel in the nation, creating the school literacy volunteer program for the Los Angeles Times, establishing a Westside consortium of social service agencies partnering to increase family incomes and youth academic achievement, and developing the California State University, Northridge Department of Social Work.

Cislowski is an associate teaching professor, practicum education at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, teaches the foundations of clinical skills and theory and applications of leadership and management. She has been Co-PI for the HRSA Primary Care Project Scholarship whose goal was to train 110 MSW students from 2020-2025 to provide integrated and interprofessional behavioral health services in primary care settings for vulnerable populations

Cislowski spent over 10 years as the Southern California regional director for practicum education, where she oversaw the placement and supervision of more than 350 students attending the Virtual Academic Center (VAC) each year. She is currently the assistant director of practicum education, coordinating and supporting practicum education experience for the VAC as well as on-campus students. She was elected by her peers to the school's Faculty Council two times, and was elected to serve as vice chair and then became chair of Faculty Council. She has served on numerous University Committees as

well. She presents nationally and has published on innovative social work education practices.

Cislowski formerly served as member of the City of West Hollywood Disabilities Advisory Board, where she advocated for people with disabilities and advised the City Council on issues affecting this population, including housing, transportation, ADA compliance and other access issues. Cislowski served for 18 years as a human services commissioner for the City of West Hollywood, including two terms as chair of the commission that oversees more than \$3 million in funding annually to local social service agencies. The commission collaborates with the City Council and other key stakeholders to identify the city's social service priorities, review grant proposals and recommend allocation of funds.

Cislowski has been an active volunteer in the community, including representing the City of West Hollywood on the Westside Regional Behavioral Health Facility Implementation Strategy Advisory Board, participation with The Jewish Federation's Koreh L.A. Literacy Task Force Advisory Board, Jewish Community Relations Committee Urban Affairs Commission and Access Community Action Projects Committee. She volunteered with SEIU Local 11 to assist members to enroll in unemployment benefits who were laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cislowski has been a member of the California Democratic State Central Committee and is a longtime member and elected officer of the West Hollywood/Beverly Hills Democratic Club. She has experience as both a staff member and volunteer for numerous political campaigns. She served as the co-chair of the Field Education Committee for Voting is Social Work, and the leadership of The National Social Work Voter Mobilization Campaign, which is a national movement to integrate voter registration and engagement into social work education and professional practice. She was awarded the West Hollywood Women in Leadership Award in 2018. In 2022, she was recognized for her profound impact on the people and community with the 28th Congressional District Woman of the Year from Congressman Adam Schiff.

Cislowski received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, her Master of Social Work from the University of Southern California and her Master of Arts in Jewish Communal Service from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She was recognized in 2022 for her years of professional and community service with an Honorary Doctorate from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.