Dean Paula Allen-Meares

Paula Allen-Meares is Dean, Norma Radin Collegiate Professor of Social Work, and Professor of Education at the University of Michigan. She previously held the title of Dean and Professor at the School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In addition to a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, she received the Management Institute Certificate from Harvard University and completed the Executive Development Center's Senior Administrator Seminar at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana's College of Commerce and Business Administration in 1990, and received the Management of Managers Certificate from the University of Michigan School of Business Administration in 1993.

Her research interests include the tasks and functions of social workers employed in educational settings; psychopathology in children, adolescents, and families; adolescent sexuality; premature parenthood; and various aspects of social work practice.

Major themes in Dean Allen-Meares' research include improving the mental health/health of poor children and adolescents of color; adolescent pregnancy; and the strengths of African-American parents and communities. These themes are supported by major federal and foundation funders. Her research and scholarly products are cited around the world – her theoretical model on school social work for at risk youth has been translated into practice in South Africa, and principles of this model are also used in South Korea, Australia, China, and Europe.

Upon being named Dean at the University of Michigan, Allen-Meares was charged with promoting excellence within the school's student body and programming, and attracting the very best students, faculty and staff. Consequently, the number of dual degree programs and the number of jointly appointed faculty and collaborations with other academic units have both increased during her Deanship. In addition, the Dean was charged with growing the endowment and foundation funded research and scholarship. During her tenure, both the endowment fund for the School as well as the amount of research awards have grown substantially.

Since 1993, Dean Allen-Meares has directed the School of Social Work that ranked #1 in the United States for nearly a decade. Its mission is the development of empirical knowledge and dissemination. Her work and that of the faculty is interdisciplinary and focuses on the health and mental health of vulnerable and low-income individuals across the life span and the communities, organizations, and institutions that serve them.

Additionally, Dean Allen-Meares was challenged with strengthening the Schools research profile and portfolio, a critical area of the Schools mission, and one in which she leads by example.

- She is currently the Principal Investigator for Community Building Partnership for Selected Detroit Communities-Technical Assistance, funded by the Skillman Foundation ($900k). The community-based project facilitates a working partnership between Detroit community organizations and the University of Michigan School of Social Work.
- As Co-principal Investigator on an NIMH R01 ($812k), *Pathways for Youth: Risk and Resilience*, she is studying the developmental outcomes for youth whose primary caregiver has a mental illness. This study also examines family, social, personal and community factors that predict youth resiliency.
- As Principal Investigator of the Global Program on Youth, an initiative supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation ($1.5M), she has convened groups of scholars,

policy makers, and service providers who work together to address issues related to youth.

- In addition to leading the Global Program on Youth, she was the co-principal investigator of the NIMH Social Work Research Center on Poverty, Risk, and Mental Health (approximately $2.6M over 10 years), and a co-investigator on an NIMH research grant.

Also part of her tenure charge, Dean Allen-Meares was given the task of initiating, coordinating, and implementing the fundraising, building, and relocation of the social work program into a state-of-the-art facility on the U-M campus. Allen-Meares successfully raised $34M between 1995-1998 in private and public funds, and ensured that social work students could enjoy a world-class social work library, enhanced technology capacities in the classroom, and an open and inviting space for learning and meeting, both now and in the future.

Her fundraising ability has also resulted in a growing School endowment fund, several multi-million dollar gifts that support students, academics, and research, and a growing list of endowed chairs, funded by generous donors and friends of the school.

In addition to her leadership activities, Dean Allen-Meares has published extensively on the topic of school social work, issues concerning youth and their families, higher education— in particular social work education, and interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaborations and research. Her latest work includes the *School Social Work and Mental Health Workers Training and Resources Manual* for Oxford University Press (2006), Where do we go from here? Mental health workers and the implementation of an evidence-based practice, in A.R. Roberts (Ed.), *Social Workers' Desk Reference,* Oxford University Press (2008), and the 6th edition of her Allyn & Bacon published volume titled *Social Work Services in Schools*, the 3rd edition of which was recently translated into Korean. She has also recently authored commentary on issues facing higher education and consequently social work education for an edition of the CSWE Reporter.

She additionally serves on the editorial boards of several journals and publications, including positions as Editor-in-Chief of *Social Work In Education* (1989-1993) and the *Journal of Social Work Education* (CSWE, 1997-2000). Allen-Meares currently serves on the Editorial Boards of *Research on Social Work Practice*, *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work: Advances in Practice, Programming, Research, and Policy*, *Electronic Journal of Social Work*, *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work, Journal of Poverty, Journal of Social Service Research*, and *Children and Youth Services Review*, and serves as a Consulting Editor to *Children and Schools*, *Advances in Social Work*, and *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services*. In 2006, she was invited to rejoin the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Social Work Education*.

Dean Allen-Meares also serves on national professional and scientific committees promoting the intellectual and empirical advancement of the profession. She is a past member of the Institute for Advancement of Social Work Research, and has formerly held the offices of Treasurer of the Council on Social Work Education, Chair of the Publication Committee for the National Association of Social Workers, Vice President for the National Association of Deans and Directors of Social Work, and President of the Society for Social Work and Research.

Allen-Meares has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the William T. Grant Foundation, where she was the Chair of the Nomination Committee from 2004-2007, and as University of Michigan Senior Fellow. She is a New York Academy of Medicine Fellow (elected 2007), and is presently appointed to the NYAM's panel on

long-term care issues in the United States, Steering Committee, the Social Work Leadership Institute Public Policy Committee (ex-officio/President), and serves as the Chair of the National Advisory Panel—(PPPAI) Practicum Partnership Program Adoption Initiative. Additionally, Dean Allen-Meares was formally inducted as a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies in October 2005, and currently serves on the Membership Committee and as Vice Chair, Section X.

Dean Allen-Meares serves or served on numerous committees at the University of Michigan that promote interdisciplinary research and instruction, fundraising, and diversity, including the Center of Institutional Diversity Steering Committee, the Bioterrorism Preparedness Initiative Advisory Committee, the President's Advisory Committee on Women's Issues, the Depression Center Advisory Board, the Health Science Council (as Chair 2001-2003), the Seminar on University Priorities, Center for Human Growth & Development Advisory Committee, the academic Program Group Subcommittee on Development, and representing the University on the Washtenaw Project Great Start Advisory Committee.