During 2017, GADE recognized outstanding contributors in the field of doctoral education, sponsored events that support leadership development, and participated in partnerships aimed at promoting excellence in doctoral programs and students.

In 2017, the GADE Board members hosted special interest groups on doctoral education and partner presentations for doctoral students and faculty at CSWE and SSWR.

Board members leading presentations include: Laina Bay-Cheng, Beverly Black, Cynthia Franklin, Mo Yee Lee, Liz Lightfoot, Peter Maramaldi, and Renee Cunningham-Williams.

Congratulations to our new treasurer elect, Brenda Smith and secretary, Renee Cunningham-Williams.

My special thanks to our 2017 GADE Advisory Board members: Jeane Anastas, Darla Coffey, Rowena Fong, Ruth McRoy, Paula Nurius, Chris Petr, Yolanda Padilla, and Rebecca Rebbe.

Two outstanding faculty members were recognized by GADE: Dr. Beverly Black received the 2017 GADE Award for Educational Leadership in Doctoral Education. Dr. Stephanie Robert received the 2017 GADE Award for Excellence in Mentoring.

Doctoral students Stephanie, Chris Ward and Amanda Aykanian also received the 2017 GADE awards. Two other students, Jelena Todic and Kasia Olcon received honorable mention for their contributions to promoting social justice in doctoral curricula.

The University of Minnesota hosted the 2017 GADE conference. Professors Michael Reisch, Liz Lightfoot, and Joe Soss presented intellectually stimulating presentations aimed at addressing social justice in doctoral curricula, and challenged doctoral program directors to address societal movements that devalue science and human rights.

Another timely presentation at the GADE conference was on how to use the GADE Quality Guidelines in the external evaluations of PhD programs. Renee Cunningham-Williams, Peter Maramaldi and Assistant Provost, Marlo Welshon from the University of Minnesota were presenters.

Other GADE initiatives for 2017 included:

- Sponsorship of the CSWE Doctoral Connection Breakfast for doctoral students
- Contributions toward the Social Work Force Study
- Participation in the March for Science
- The introduction of a credit card to facilitate the payment of member dues and the hiring of a bookkeeper

It has been a great year at GADE and I am looking forward to 2018.

- Cynthia Franklin, Ph.D., LCSW