



GSSW Neurodiversity Network for Peers, Allies and Alumni Crimson Constellation



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Foundation of Connecting

Creating Connection Beyond Boundaries

The Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW) acknowledges that neurodivergent individuals frequently face misunderstanding and systemic barriers in both academic and professional settings. A virtual platform provides a flexible and accessible way for neurodivergent students, faculty, and alumni to connect, share, and grow regardless of geographic location, sensory needs, or communication preferences.

Fostering a Culture of Belonging

This space is designed to affirm neurodivergent identities and experiences. It provides a psychologically safe environment where individuals can engage authentically, without pressure to mask or conform. By centering neurodivergent voices, the platform helps build a culture of belonging that reflects the core values of social work: dignity, respect, and inclusion.

Supporting Lifelong Learning and Mentorship

The virtual platform facilitates intergenerational learning and mentorship. Students can learn from alumni navigating the field, faculty can share inclusive teaching practices, and professionals can offer guidance on workplace advocacy. These exchanges strengthen the neurodivergent community and enrich the broader social work profession.

Encouraging Collaboration and Innovation

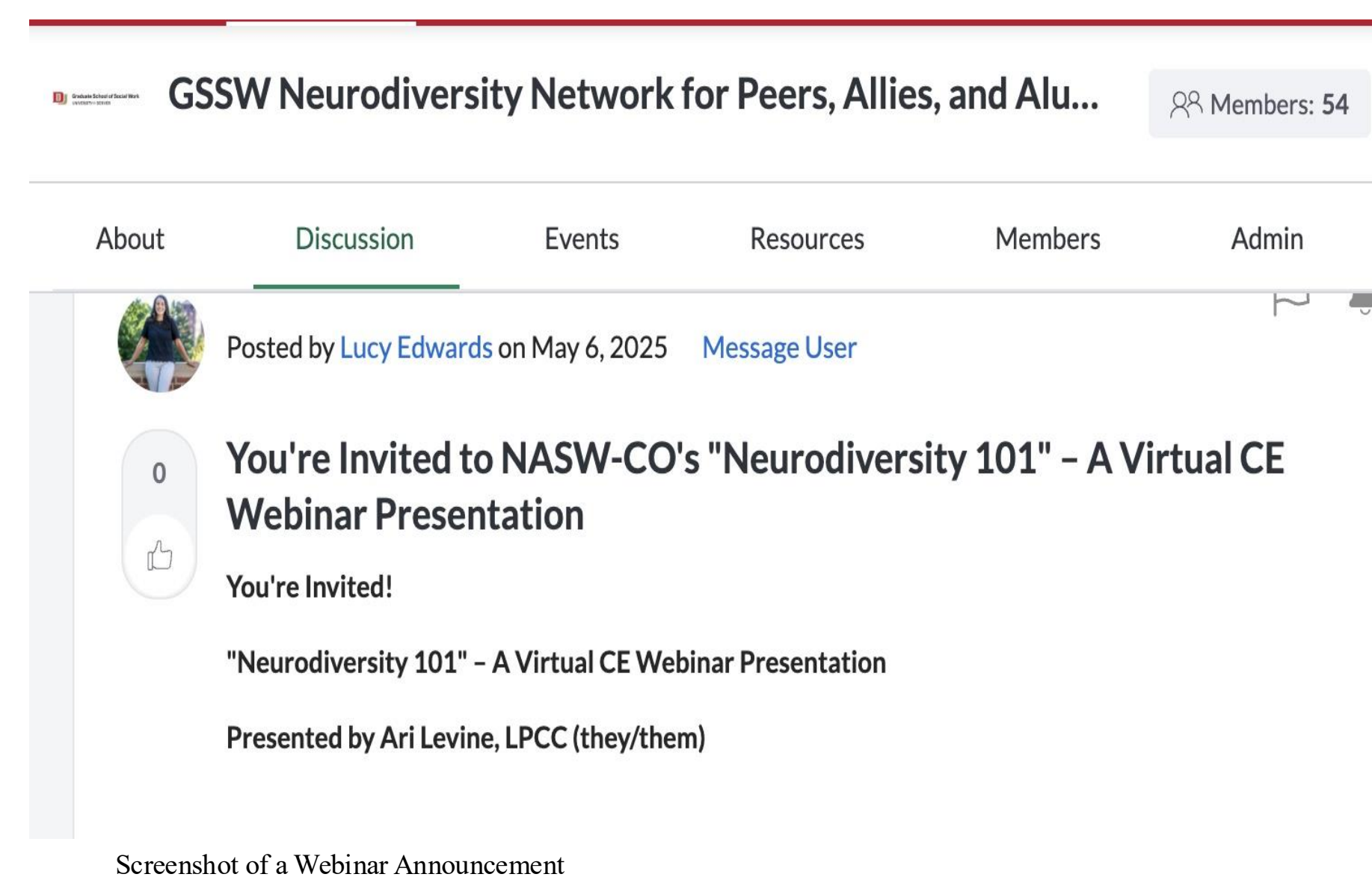
Neurodivergent individuals often bring unique strengths, including systems thinking, creativity, and deep empathy, that can drive innovation in social work practice and education. A virtual space enables collaborative projects, resource sharing, and idea generation that may not flourish in traditional settings.

Advancing Equity and Accessibility

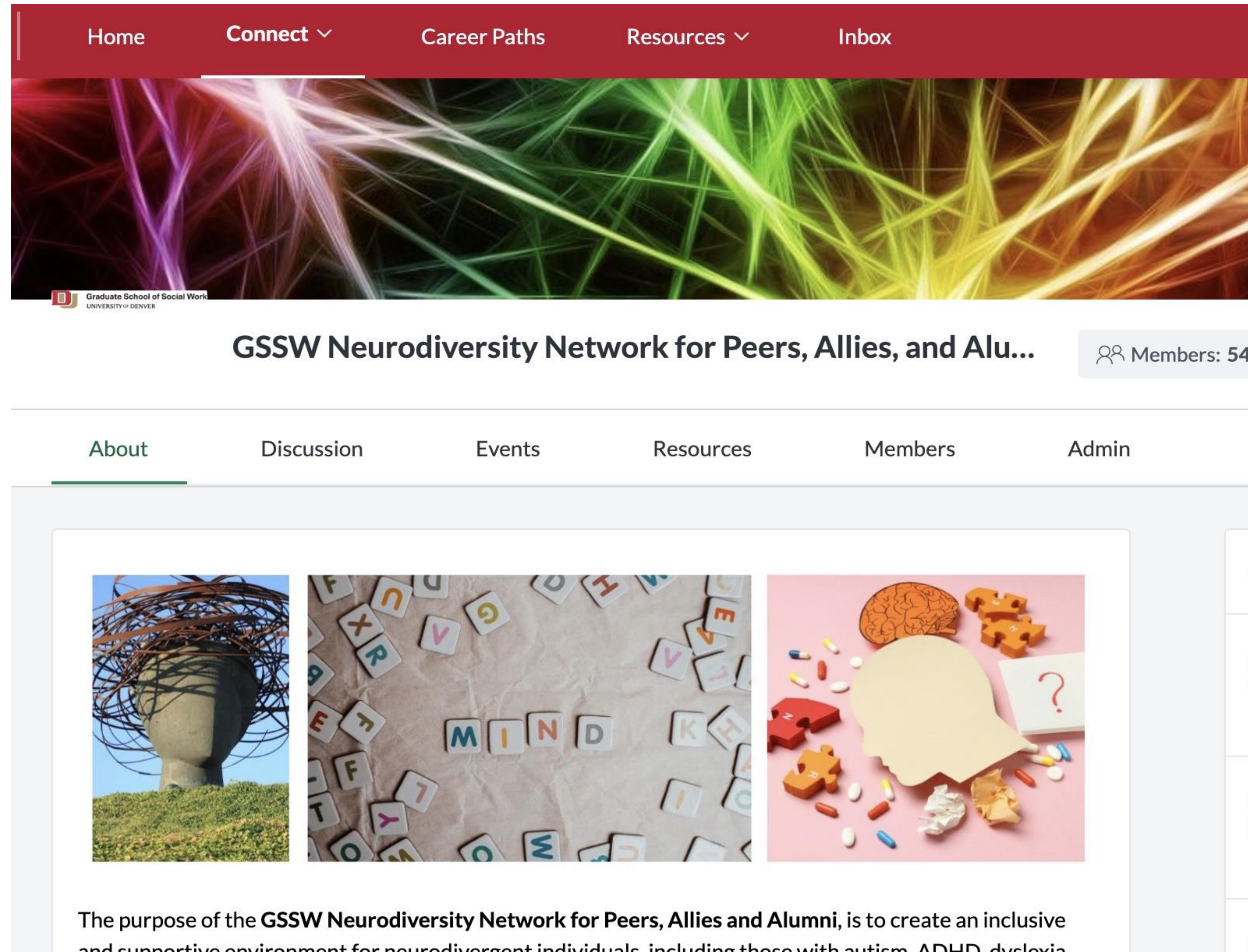
By investing in a virtual platform, GSSW demonstrates its commitment to equity and accessibility. It acknowledges that inclusion must extend beyond accommodations it must be proactive, intentional, and community-driven. This initiative is a step toward dismantling ableism and building a more just academic and professional landscape.

Event Sharing & Community Building

GSSW's four MSW programs have students in the Denver Metro area, Glenwood Springs, Durango, and throughout the United States, with our virtual program also serving students nationwide. To facilitate connection and event sharing, this platform enables students to share events happening in their local areas, as well as national trainings focusing on Neurodiversity in Social Work practice.



Crimson Constellation Group Page



Results

Since the launch of Crimson Constellation in Winter 2025, the GSSW Neurodiversity Network has gained over 50 members on the platform. Through the 2025-2-2026 Academic Year, GSSW will continue to partner with students, faculty, and alumni to grow.

At the Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW), neurodiversity is being woven into the Master of Social Work (MSW) curriculum in ways that prepare students to both support neurodivergent clients and reflect on their own neurodivergent identities.

Despite progress, many MSW programs still lack dedicated coursework on neurodiversity. Disability-related content is often embedded within general diversity courses, which may limit depth and specificity. However, the growing recognition of neurodiversity as a vital component of social work education presents opportunities for curriculum innovation, faculty development, and student empowerment.

Next Steps

Build a Core Team or Advisory Group

- Include neurodivergent students and faculty in leadership roles.
- Invite allies and experts in neurodiversity to help guide accessibility and inclusion practices.

Offer Regular Events and Engagement Opportunities

- Host virtual meetups, guest speakers, or resource-sharing sessions.
- Include low-pressure spaces, “quiet chats,” or “drop-in hours,” for those who prefer less structured interaction.

Create and Share Resources

- Continued develop a resource hub with:
- Accessibility tips for students and faculty
- Mental health and academic support links
- Stories or spotlights on neurodivergent voices

Continued Focus

Supporting neurodivergent individuals in social work is not just about accommodation, it's about transformation. By creating inclusive environments that honor neurodiversity, we strengthen the profession's ability to serve all communities with compassion, creativity, and justice. Whether in the classroom, the field, or in virtual communities, neurodivergent voices deserve to be heard, respected, and empowered.

References

<https://crimsonconstellation.du.edu/hub/univ-denver/groups/gssw-neurodiversity-network-for-peers-allies-and-alumni>

(n.d.). *Diverse Minds, Inclusive Practices. Are We Preparing Social Workers to Neurodiversity Inclusive?* Social Work Today. Retrieved September 30, 2025, from <https://www.socialworktoday.com/subscribe.shtml>