TOP SUCCESSFUL TIPS FOR FIELD INSTRUCTORS

1. Do not become the student’s therapist.
2. Establish clear boundaries.
3. Reinforce chain of command.
4. Know and learn student’s professional goals.
5. Regularly schedule meetings and refer to learning contract weekly.
6. Make them feel like a member of the team.
7. Provide structure and be organized.
8. Have an open door policy.
9. Plan and implement a good orientation.
10. Flexibility.
11. Attend orientations.
12. Keep track of student’s hours.
13. Focus on the curriculum and competencies established by the Council on Social Work Education and DSU Social Work Department.
14. Be mindful they are students learning.
15. Have students review agency policies.
16. Use mistakes as learning opportunities.
17. Set timelines/deadlines.
18. Be open to student’s new ideas.
19. Make a plan for crisis situations and discuss scenarios in advance.
20. Do not ask the intern to do something you would not be willing to do.
21. Last but not least take care of yourself and watch for burn out.

The following tips were given at the DSU Field Instructor’s Orientation by field instructors on August 18, 2010.