



# A MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

UNIVERSITYofHOUSTON  
GRADUATE COLLEGE of SOCIAL WORK

## Salute, Bravo, and Thank You!

*"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment to improve the world."*  
Anne Frank



How wonderful it is that so many in our GCSW community make it their business and life's work to improve the world, make a difference and, in accordance with this year's Social Work Month theme, ***Pave the Way for Change***. Last Friday, we had the privilege of honoring a group of very special people who are shining examples to those in our community and throughout the Greater Houston area. Congratulations and *Thank You* to all of the honorees at the 15th Annual Greater Houston Area Social Work Awards Breakfast!

[Visit our website for bios of the recipients to learn more about the incredible work they do.](#)



*George Bement, LCSW* - recipient of the University Graduate College of Social Work (UH GCSW) Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award



*Elizabeth Fries* and *Paige Fries* - recipients of the UH GCSW Alumni Association Charlotte Campbell Scholarship Award

*Blenda Coleman* - recipient of the Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW) Social Worker of the Year Award (Photo Unavailable)



*Dr. Thomas F. Freeman* - recipient of the ABSW Community Service of the Year Award



*Sonya Lucas/Roberts* - recipient of the ABSW Community Advocate Award



*Tony Carroll, LCSW* - recipient of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) - Houston Lifetime Achievement Award



*Melanie Espinosa Pang, LMSW* - recipient of the NASW - Houston Social Work Student of the Year Award



*Deb Murphy* - recipient of the NASW -Houston Public Citizen Award



*Charles Kuffus* - recipient of the National Association of Social Workers -Houston Media Award



*Sheila Weinright* - recipient of the UH/Downtown, Social Work Program Outstanding Social Work Student of the Year Award



*Karia Bani* - recipient of the UH/Downtown, Social Work Program Student Leadership Award



*Mayra Garza* - recipient of the UH/Downtown, Social Work Program Community Engagement Award



*Tammy Mermelstein* - recipient of the UH/Downtown, Social Work Program BSW Field Instructor of the Year



*Maria Tume* and *Valerie Zanders, LMSW* - recipients of the UH/Clear Lake, Social Work Program Field Instructor of the Year

*Heather Green* - recipient of the UH/Clear Lake, Social Work Program Social Justice and Service Award (Photo Unavailable)



*Kathleen Guzack*(Methodist Hospital)- recipient of the University Graduate College of Social Work (UH GCSW) Outstanding Field Instructor of the Year

Congratulations to all of the nominees for the UH GCSW 2015 Field Instructor of the Year Award:

Leticia Castro (KIPP Academy Middle School), Meggin Lorino (NC-Sheltering Arms Senior Services), Juleena Masters (Michael DeBokey VA Medical Center), Jeannine Matthews (Davita Dialysis), Patricia McElliott (The Council on Alcohol and Drugs), Ophelia Mok (Child Advocates of Fort Bend County), Telicia Rittman (National Smart Healthcare Service), Jessica Smith (Communities in Schools-Lee High School), Susan Szczyski (The Children's Assessment Center), Renee Traweck (Champion Therapy)

A very special thank you to our Event Sponsors: Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Authority of Harris County, National Association of Black Social Workers - Houston Chapter, National Association of Social Workers - Houston Branch, Society for Social Work Leadership in Healthcare - Texas Chapter, Texas Southern University Department of Social Work, University of Houston/Clear Lake Social Work Program, University of Houston/Downtown Social Work Program, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work Alumni Association, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work Student Association.

And thank you to all who attended the breakfast. We are already looking forward to seeing you all next year!

## Community Events

Visit the [Community Events page on our website](#) for details on the events listed here as well as information on how to submit your event. Current listings include: Mar 13: Montrose Center 26th Annual St. Patrick's Day Party; Bringin' in the Green, Mar 13: Reasonable Hope in Treatment, Mar 17: Game-Changing Approaches to Dementia Care for Helping Professionals, Mar 25: HIPAA Compliance, Apr 18: Crime Victims' Right Week. [Visit our website for more!](#)

Please use the links to our calendar and website to stay current with all the exciting happenings at GCSW!

