



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
GRADUATE COLLEGE of SOCIAL WORK

A Place of Honor...

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." - Mahatma Gandhi



For the second year in a row, UH was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll presented by the Corporation for National and Community Service. UH was named as a member of the Honor Roll with Distinction. It is the only public institution from Texas to earn a place on this list.

The GCSW's Office of Field Education was highlighted for connecting students with field internships that impact lower income neighborhoods or medically underserved or marginalized communities. The work of our students, supported by our faculty and staff was a key contributor that pushed UH into this elite roster of community-serving organizations. [Read more from the University of Houston's news release.](#)



Speaking of elite rosters...Congratulations to GCSW faculty members (left to right) Dr. Luis Torres, Dr. Danielle Parrish, Dr. Susan Robbins, Dr. Patrick Bordnick, Dr. Patrick Leung and Dr. Sheera Williams Jennings (pictured with Interim Dean Dr. Paul Raffoul (third from left) and Provost Paula Myrick Short (third from left)). They were honored at Provost Short's Faculty Recognition Luncheon for their outstanding contributions to the GCSW and UH communities. Kudos!

Program Highlights



GCSW students are making the most of the Unique Opportunities offered by our program while also providing valuable contributions and service to improve communities. Right now, in Austin, the GCSW Legislative interns are learning the ins and outs of advocacy, policy and political social work. [And they're blogging about it!](#) This week, GCSW student Rob Block, writes about House Bill 233, proposed by Rep. Jessica Farrer. He shares a specific example of how policy considerations in the legislature can impact social work practice.

"One task that has been interesting is working bills. Representative Farrer has proposed more than 20 bills; a handful of which I am in charge of working. This means doing research and writing to make a strong case for bills that my Representative has filed.

One bill that I believe will be of interest to social workers is House Bill 233, which the office has dubbed the ISchool Social Work Bill. HB 233 is a bill that adds a brief description of the role of a school social worker to the Texas Education Code. There is currently no definition of the services school social workers may provide in the Education Code..."

[Read more, including how you can lend your support to the bill, as well as blog entries from our other interns here.](#) And you can read more about our [Political Social Work Specialization](#), one of many unique opportunities at the GCSW [here](#).



Other GCSW students are making an impact right here on the UH campus. Our SMART Cougars (Substance Use, Mental Health and HIV/AIDS Risk Assessment and Testing)* program held two events last week in support of National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness 2015. Nationally known advocate, Venita Ray headlined a free event to share her story and information on living with HIV with the UH community.

And throughout the week, free HIV testing was offered at the GCSW for all UH students, faculty and staff. Tests were performed on site and participants received results in 20 minutes. In all, over 50 were tested. Kudos! (pictured: The SMART Cougars team with advocate Venita Ray)

*SMART Cougars prevents and reduces substance abuse and transmission of HIV/AIDS among Hispanic/Latino and African American college students ages 18-24 at the University of Houston, as well as the communities surrounding the university. [Read more on our website.](#)

Upcoming Events...

Attention GCSW Alumni in NYC! Don't miss brunch with the GCSW on Sunday, March 22, 2015. Meet and network with our students, faculty and staff who will be in town participating in Social Work Day at the United Nations. [Get the details on our website.](#)



Don't miss these upcoming GCSW Continuing Education opportunities! [Register and get more information on these courses and other upcoming offerings on our website.](#)

Saturday, March 28, 2015: DSM-5: What You Need to Know Now

Friday, April 17, 2015: 8 Guiding Principles for Professional Growth and Supervision

Wednesday, April 29, 2015: Sexuality, Values and Ethics in Social Work Practice
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: Professionals, Mar 25: HIPAA Compliance, Apr 17: The Ethics of Grief: Grieving, Suffering and Making Meaning; Apr 18: Crime Victims' Right Week, Apr 30-May 2: Houston Group Psychotherapy Society Annual Institute [Visit our website for more!](#)

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

