

November 2, 2011

Dear Colleague:

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Department of Social Work Scholarship Gala Committee is seeking nominations for Community Commitment Awards in the following categories to be presented at the annual Scholarship Gala, Saturday, March 24, 2012: ***Humanitarian Award, Social Worker of the Year Award, Outstanding Agency/Organization Award and Outstanding Alumni Award***. These awards honor individuals and agencies/organizations in the areas of achievement, leadership, and service and who exemplify the best of the profession's values and mission and characterize the ideals of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Department of Social Work. We encourage agencies/organizations to share this information about the Community Commitment Awards with employees and include it in their newsletters.

Nominations are due by Thursday, January 12, 2012. Recipients of the awards and nominators will be notified by the Scholarship Gala Committee prior to the event. To ensure candidates eligibility, please adhere to the nomination guidelines.

*The Humanitarian Award honors an individual whose lifetime achievement(s) best exemplifies the values and mission of the Social Work profession. Humanitarian Award recipients are *not* social workers.

Nominees for the ***Humanitarian Award*** must—

- be an upstanding moral person who represents integrity, excellence and dignity
- have made a significant contribution to humanity/society through volunteerism
- demonstrate leadership through coaching, mentoring, modeling, networking, advocacy, etc.
- demonstrate benevolent humanitarian service to the community at large
- have contributed to society through service, works or deeds
- demonstrate a caring spirit in all aspects of her/his life
- demonstrate a life of service to a particular population or cause
- demonstrate dedication to the improvement of society

*The Social Worker of the Year Award honors a member of the Social Work profession who best exemplifies adherence to the values and mission of the profession and achievement through specific accomplishments.

Nominees for the ***Social Worker of the Year Award*** must—

- be an upstanding moral person who represents integrity, excellence and dignity
- have been a Social Worker for a minimum of ten (10) years
- be licensed as an LSW or LCSW
- demonstrate dedication to Social Work values and ethics
- demonstrate Social Work values in all aspects of her/his life
- demonstrates outstanding leadership

- have made a significant contribution to the Social Work profession
- have made a significant contribution to the Southern Illinois Region through outstanding achievement or accomplishment in one or more of the following areas—
 1. Advocacy for clients
 2. Social Work practice
 3. Research
 4. Program/area development
 5. Social policy
 6. Political action
 7. Administration

*The Outstanding Agency/Organization Award recognizes an outstanding social service agency/organization whose contributions and commitment to community service best exemplifies social work values and ethics as demonstrated through programs and initiatives responsive to community and social needs.

Nominees for the *Outstanding Agency/Organization Award* must—

- be an upstanding agency/organization representing integrity, excellence, dignity and humanitarian principles
- have a solid mission statement demonstrated through advocacy, action and/or service
- be an agency/organization that provides some type of social service to the community
- be an agency/organization that employs social workers
- be an agency/organization that is friendly toward social workers and the social work community
- be an agency/organization that has advanced the profession of social work through advocacy, action and/or service
- be a referral source for social workers
- support ongoing, continuing education for social workers
- demonstrate strong social work advocacy
- demonstrate benevolence in giving back to the community

* The Outstanding Alumni of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding graduate of the SIUE Department of Social Work. This award seeks to honor deserving alumni who have made a significant contribution to the Social Work profession and characterized the ideals of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Department of Social Work.

Nominees for the *Outstanding Alumni of the Year Award* must—

- be an upstanding moral person who represents integrity, excellence and dignity
- be a graduate of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, **Department of Social Work**
- be a licensed MSW (LSW or LCSW) with a minimum of five (5) years experience in social work
- demonstrate dedication to Social Work values and ethics
- demonstrate Social Work values in all aspects of her/his life
- demonstrate outstanding leadership
- demonstrate community service outside of regular employment
- have made a significant contribution to the Social Work profession through one or more of the following—
 1. Advocacy for the profession
 2. Advocacy/service to clients
 3. Social Work practice

4. Service to the community/profession
5. Research
6. Program/area development
7. Community organizing
8. Political action
9. Administration

Award recipients will be honored at the annual Scholarship Gala, Saturday, March 24, 2012, at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in the Meridian Ballroom.

If you have questions or need further information regarding nominations or this event, please contact me at 618-650-2620 or Judy Zimmerman at 618-650-5429.

Sincerely,

Kellene M. Hamilton, MSW, LCSW, DCSW
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Department of Social Work
Scholarship Gala Committee Chair

Larry W. Kreuger Ph. D., Professor
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Department of Social Work, Chair (618-650-5820)

