

Jason Fernandez NASW Social Work Student of the Year Nomination

Jason Fernandez is a current member of the NASW. He is enrolled in the Graduate College of Social Work Hybrid Program at the University of Houston. Jason is an inspiration to all of the students in his cohort. He is consistently striving to do the best work possible. He has personally inspired me to ask more questions and do more than just what is expected. Jason demonstrates his leadership in a positive way by encouraging and setting the example with other students. Jason brings an advanced knowledge from previously having a master's degree but does not hesitate to share this knowledge with others. Jason not only sets a high standard for himself but maintains that standard for his students he teaches at lone star community college and his colleges in the social work program.

Jason has demonstrated his commitment to social justice through many avenues both with the University of Houston and in his personal life. Jason recently ran an emergency shelter during Hurricane Harvey with the support of his colleges. During this time, he continually reached out to other students in the program to ensure that everyone's needs were met. Jason was selected to give an oral presentation at the 2017 Graduate Research & Scholarship Project (GRaSP) on Death and Dying. He has demonstrated a commitment to research in this area by being awarded first place for his research presentation in our foundation semester on this topic and continuing to help as a research assistant working with Dissertation Research: Social support and physical and cognitive functioning of older adults in assisted living facilities. His leadership in our cohort of students is clear and others have followed his lead when taking an interest in research.

Jason Fernandez is my recommendation for NASW Student of the Year.