

NASW Houston 2013 Award Winners

It is with great pleasure that we announce our branch award winners. Winners are nominated, reviewed and selected by Houston NASW members. Awards will be presented at the Social Work Awards Breakfast on Friday, March 1st at the University of Houston Rockwell Pavilion. Branch winners will go on to be considered for the NASW Texas awards, which will be awarded at our annual state conference August 31-September 2 in Austin.

**Kay Schiller, LCSW,
ACSW**



The contributions and accomplishments of Kay Schiller epitomize all the qualities of a recipient for the Lifetime Achievement Award. Kay continues to make a lasting impact on the profession of social work. Along with a successful clinical practice in the Houston area, she has been an educator in the profession and served in various leadership roles in the social work community.

Kay has received various accolades regarding her service to the profession, which include, Distinguished Alumni of the Graduate College of Social Work by the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work in 2012, Dedicated Service to University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work Alumni Association in August 2011, board Service to National Association of Social Workers, and she was inducted into the University of Houston Clear Lake Phi Alpha Honor Society in 2009.

Lifetime Achievement

With NASW itself, Kay has been more than a member in good standing- Kay is tirelessly and actively involved at a local and state level. She has served as Vice-President of the Board of Directors, acted as the board liaison to Branches, been the State Annual Conference Chair for four years, and chaired the Fundraising Committee for NASW Texas Conference for three years.

**Dr. Stephen “Arch”
Erich, LCSW, PhD**



Arch has been a part of the Social Work profession for close to 30 years in both practice and academics. His commitment and passion to the profession are undeniably strong. Arch Erich has served as faculty and Program Director at the University of Houston Clear Lake BSW program since its beginning in 1998. As an educator of future social workers, Arch takes his teaching approach very seriously and runs a BSW curriculum that trains strong practitioners with attention to diversity, ethics, public policy, and social justice advocacy. He educates students to embody the values and ethics of the Social Work profession, sending them into practice or graduate school with a solid foundation, research experience and practice experience, and exceptional diversity and social justice training. A characteristic that particularly stands out is his ability to empower and motivate his students. Arch plays a strong mentoring role with students and, as they will tell you, repeatedly brings out the very best in them by acknowledging their strengths and believing in their potential. His work with students is a strong contribution to social work as so many have gone on to be competent, effective social workers. While at UHCL, he has published 34 articles, participated in 29 academic presentations, served as an editor or reviewer for 8 different publications, and received multiple awards for his service and work. In 2011, Arch was promoted at UHCL to full professor.

Social Worker of the Year

Becca Keo, GCSW



Rebecca has a passion for research and an understanding that scholarship needs to merge rigorous methods with an eye towards practice implications. She has conducted two ambitious research projects during her time in graduate school and her poster on *Exploring Transgender Negativity in a Virtual Reality Environment* was selected as the best in her cohort. Not content to work within the confines of her own discipline, Rebecca has taken her knowledge on transgender and gender variant issues university and community wide. She has contributed to transgender policy at the University of Houston and has helped develop and present work on gender variant children to clinicians, physicians and other community members in order to raise awareness around legal, medical and educational opportunities for gender variant children and their families. In addition Rebecca is an active volunteer in the LGBTQ community.

Social Work Student of the Year

**C. Patrick
McIlvain**



**Public Citizen of
the Year**

Patrick can regularly be seen on Facebook encouraging voters in his districts to come out and participate in early voting. Whether there are 6 or 60 people who show up on any given day, he occupies his post from opening to close, and takes his responsibilities very seriously. In addition to being an early voting election clerk, Patrick is actively involved with the Harris County Democratic Party. He can be found block walking, making phone calls, attending fundraisers, and working in the offices of a variety of progressive candidates. Patrick works hard and is loyal to his elected officials, and in turn, wields a considerable amount of political clout.

Patrick's biggest project to date is the creation and organization of the Houston Walk for Mental Health Awareness. Founded in 2011, the Walk has raised over \$30,000 for agencies across Houston who provide mental health services. The 2012 event had over 300 walkers, and has the support of Mayor Annise Parker, Sheriff Adrian Garcia, and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. Over 30 exhibitors and corporate sponsors help underwrite the event, and Patrick was able to add a free luncheon for participants prior to the walk. The event is fun, joyful, well-organized, and focuses on not only destigmatizing mental health issues, but providing education, as well. This grassroots effort is Patrick's true labor of love and gift to the Houston community.

Transportation is consistently one of the biggest barriers to people being able to access the services they need, so it is worth noting that Patrick accomplishes everything he does via public transportation. He is truly motivated and committed to making a difference, and does so by any means necessary.