

Excellence in Leadership Award
Regina Johnson

I was burned out in a Human Resources career, when my mother was diagnosed with Dementia. I moved her in with me and began to attend numerous caregiver conferences held around the city. Other friends saw my journey and began to ask me to speak to people they knew who were beginning to care for their aging parents, and to help them navigate through the first steps. It was then I realized my passion would be social work, concentrating in gerontology and working with caregivers.

There have been so many GREAT experiences in the UHD BSW program. The ones that stood out the most were Professor Reynolds Urban Practice II class and Professor Cruz's Immigration class. I was pleasantly surprised by how much I would learn and really enjoy each course.

There is so much that I want to do in my career as a social worker: advocate for better nursing home regulations, continue my work with caregivers in multiple settings, and pursue a MSW and Ph.D. concentrating in Gerontology and macro Social Work practice.

I thank all my professors and advisors including Dr. Goltz, Professor Reynolds, Dr. Smith, Professor Goins, and Dr. McCarty, as well as some great classmates that have not only helped me tremendously in some way, but also inspired me to do my best work: Dana Rose, Bobbie Jennings, Annette Howard, Demetra Douglas, and Jasmyne Williams.