SW STUDENT ADVOCACY DAY ON CAPITOL HILL
Tuesday, March 17, 2015
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Members Room, Thomas Jefferson Building
Library of Congress

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work
Celebrating Our Connection...40 Years and Beyond

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

Catholic University of America
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March 17, 2015

Re: Social Work Student Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill

Dear Students,

The Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work would like to welcome you to Student Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill. You and we are all very lucky to be living and working here in Washington DC, in the center of where the action is, with regards to Legislation and Advocacy.

The committee has planned a wonderful day for you, and we hope you will enjoy your day, and hope that you will have some wonderful experiences to carry with you as you return to your programs and workplaces.

Our Greater Washington Society is a volunteer group of just under 800 members, ranging from Licensed Clinical Social Workers, to students in their Master’s programs, working towards that same end. Our membership has a multitude of activities centered on our core values: Education, Advocacy, and Community. We provide many opportunities for Education, both as teachers and learners; our Advocacy centers on various issues affecting our profession as well as access to quality affordable mental health treatment in the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, and Maryland; and our warm and welcoming Community provides all of our members with the chance to network, bond, and enjoy other social opportunities.

We are sponsoring this event because of the clear focus that it provides for all involved. We need to support our growing students, to encourage more students to be involved in the legislative process, and to provide paths for more students in this fast-growing millennial population to become the social work leaders of our future.

As we celebrate our Society’s 40th Anniversary this year, we are well aware that we must invest in our future leaders, and as such we’d like to invite you to become involved in our organization. We would love to have you.

Thank you so much for coming, and we look forward to meeting you all.

Most Sincerely,

Nancy A. Harrington LCSW, CGP
GWSCSW, President

March 17, 2015

Re: Social Work on the Hill Day

Dear Students,

Congratulations on taking a major step towards being more responsible and conscientious citizens. Your participation in today’s Social Work on the Hill Day lobbying activities will provide you with actual experience engaging the Congress in the pursuit of social justice. This is your government—of the people, for the people, and by the people. The Members of the House of Representatives are here because your fellow citizens elected them to represent their interests in the federal legislative process.

As a social worker, you are a member of a noble profession that is guided by a principled code of ethics that challenges us to provide our best service to our fellow citizens. It requires us to pursue social justice even in the Halls of Congress. The Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy is committed to expanding opportunities for social work students to engage the Congress and the federal government. Today’s event is one example.

We will be working to increase opportunities for students to fulfill their field placement obligations in Congressional offices both here in Washington, DC and in the district offices where you are enrolled in school. We believe social workers can make a difference. We believe that we have much to offer in policy and legislative deliberations. Thank you for taking the time to demonstrate your commitment by participating in Social Work on the Hill Day.

Sincerely,

Edolphus "Eddie" Towns
Former Member of Congress

Charles E. Lewis, Jr., Ph.D.
President
Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2015 Student Advocacy Day during Social Work Month, and to welcome today’s keynote speaker, Congressman Ed Towns.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work (GWSCSW), the Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy (CRISP), the Catholic University of America (CUA), and Social Work Helper for organizing this event. I am thrilled that today’s event brings together students and professionals who are rallying to support the needs of the social work profession.

Every day, social workers take on challenging social issues that confront our most vulnerable populations. Social workers work on the frontlines, helping individuals overcome adversity, connecting families to critical care services, and helping communities thrive. As a proud Chair of the Congressional Social Work Caucus and as a social worker myself, I applaud your work in advocacy and to your everyday professional lives.

To the staff, members, social workers and attendees today, thank you for your continued dedication to public service and excellence. I wish you all the very best and continued success in your future endeavors.

Warm regards,

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
EDOLPHUS TOWNS

Former Congressman Edolphus “Ed” Towns retired from the House of Representatives in January, 2013 after serving 15 terms (30 years) representing voters from his central Brooklyn districts. During his tenure in Congress, Mr. Towns rose in ranks to serve as Chairman of the powerful Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (OGR) during the 111th Congress. He was also a longtime member of the influential Committee on Energy and Commerce. In 2010, Mr. Towns founded the Congressional Social Work Caucus to provide a voice on the Hill for the more than 700,000 professional social workers in the United States.

He first introduced the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act in 2008. Upon leaving Congress, he helped create the Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy (CRISP), a nonprofit organization that complements the mission and work of the Social Work Caucus. He is also a senior advisor with Gray Global Advisors, a high-level business advisory and government affairs strategy firm.

Congressman Towns began his political career when he left his position as an administrator at Beth Israel Hospital to become Brooklyn’s first African American Deputy Borough President in 1978. He won the admiration of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm and she began grooming him for an eventual run for Congress. He was elected to Congress in 1982 and began a long and distinguished career in the United States House of Representatives.

Over the course of his long and distinguished career, Mr. Towns has been a champion of issues critical to the quality of life for New Yorkers and all Americans, such as: improving the public healthcare system, enhancing consumer protections, strengthening public education, providing access and opportunities for minority business development, developing initiatives to reduce chronic diseases, and eliminating waste, fraud and abuse in government. He served as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus during the 102nd Congress, from January, 1991 through January, 1993.

Congressman Towns views his work in Congress through the lens of his commitment to improving the lives of others as a professional social worker and ordained minister. He received his Master in Social Work (MSW) degree from Adelphi University in Garden City, New York after earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, North Carolina. He is the recipient of seven honorary doctoral degrees.

Rep. Towns is married to the former Gwen Forbes and they have been happily married for more than half a century. They have two children: a son Darryl who was elected to 10 terms in the New York State Assembly before being appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo as commissioner and chief executive of New York State Homes and Community Renewal, the state agency that oversees finance, development and preservation of housing; and a daughter Deidra. Congressman and Mrs. Towns are the proud grandparents of five grandchildren.
Organization. Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Tyrell chose social work because she believes in a fair quality of life.

Emma Mehrabi is a Legislative Correspondent for Congresswoman Barbara Lee in her Washington, D.C. office. In that capacity, she organizes, researches, and produces all constituent mail and co-manages a legislative portfolio of poverty, budget, and social work related issues. Prior to joining the office in the summer of 2013, Emma was a policy fellow at the Virginia Interfaith Center (VIC) where she researched and wrote on a wide-range of issues, including poverty, Medicaid, and predatory lending. She was also in charge of organizing and presenting at community events across the state. In her spare time, Emma volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for youth in the D.C. Foster Care system. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Christopher Newport University and a master’s degree in Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Judith D. Crocker Billingsley, Ph.D candidate (May 2015) at Clark Atlanta University. Her dissertation research is A Study of the Status and Objections to the Passing of the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr., Social Work Reinvestment Act (H.R. 1466 & S. 997) by the 113th Congress. Judith truly believes that social work chose her. Her scholarly interests are political social work, advocacy, education, research, policy, planning and administration on the Hill in Washington, DC. Additionally, Judith has a profound interest in working with members of the Congressional Social Work Caucus and the Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy (CRISP). She earned a bachelor’s degree in Human Services from Spelman College and a master’s degree in Social Work from Clark Atlanta University.

Thomas Dorney, a Senior Policy Advisor to Congressman John Lewis (D-GA). He advises on Health, Housing, GLBT issues, Social Security, Agriculture, Science and NASA. Mr. Dorney holds a master’s degree in social work from Catholic University of America.

Traci J. DeShazor, a native of Danville, VA, and a graduate of Virginia Tech where she received her B.A. in International Relations and Hollins University where she received her M.A. in Justice and Legal Studies, is a dedicated public servant and community activist, instilled with a passion for service and commitment to social justice. A graduate of the Women’s Campaign School at Yale, Traci works diligently to promote civic engagement, participation, and advocacy across the Commonwealth of Virginia. In addition, Traci currently serves on the Board of Directors as the Vice President of Research and Policy for the Virginia Leadership Institute. In addition, Traci serves as the Communications Lead for the Northern Virginia Coalition to promote cross organizational collaboration and increased political engagement and awareness of voting rights rules, regulations, and legislation updates.

Deona Holper, MSW is the Founder, Builder, and Editor-in- Chief of Social Work Helper Magazine. She has been able to establish a volunteer global advocacy digital publication with over 28,000 Twitter followers, 71,000 Facebook fans, over 5,000 followers on Tumblr, and almost 3,000 followers on Pinterest. With press access, she has attended events hosted by the White House, Center for American Progress, and National Action Network in Washington, DC. As a consultant, she has worked with both local and national nonprofits in an effort to expand their reach and campaign awareness efforts as well as conduct workshops and trainings on how to use social media for advocacy. Deona graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a master’s degree in Social Work concentrating in Management and Community Practice as well as a Certificate in Nonprofit Management. Additionally, she received a bachelor’s degree in Social Work with a Double Major in Sociology from Methodist University in Fayetteville, NC.
Dr. Michel Coconis is chair of the Association for Community Organizing and Social Administration (ACOSA), a catalyst to the formation of the Special Commission to Advance Macro Practice in Social Work. A long time death penalty abolitionist and mitigation specialist, she has held academic positions at several colleges and universities, currently with the University of Toledo. Dr. Coconis has also been engaged in community-based philanthropy, media reform, poverty rights, women’s rights, LGBTQIAA rights, campaign finance and corporate personhood work as well as Ohio NASW PACE and personal and issue campaigns.

Dr. Angela S. Henderson is the Executive Director and one of the founding members of the Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy. Dr. Henderson is responsible for CRISP’s public policy, research, education, and strategic planning initiatives. As a congressional fellow in the Office of Congressman Edolphus “Ed” Towns, she was instrumental in developing Web applications and social media for the Congressional Social Work Caucus and supervised staff and interns on various projects.

Dr. Henderson received her B.S.W. from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and her M.S.W. from Howard University School of Social Work. She earned her Ph.D. in Social Work from Howard University.

Kita Williams is President and Founder of the Atikal Foundation, providing feel good experiences to victims of cancer and domestic abuse, sharing the beauty and resilience of a community who have experienced so much. She has over 15 years of professional experience in the event marketing industry. Ms. Williams is presently the Creative Director at Brand U Inc, a branding and marketing studio in Hyattsville, Maryland. She provides branding strategy and design services to clients in non-profit, government, and private sectors.

Ms. Williams is a member of the Johns Hopkins Center to Reduce Cancer Disparities, Prince George’s Community Advisory Group; and have served with the Prince George’s County State’s Attorney Office supporting the call to end domestic violence. She studied Information Systems Management at Hampton University and currently completing her Graphic Communications degree at University of Maryland, University College (UMUC).

SHOAUNIA D. WHITE

LeaD volunTeer & gwscsw student Representative

Shauntia White is studying clinical social work at The Catholic University of America. She received a bachelor’s degree in Family Science from University of Maryland and a master’s degree in Human Development and Family Science from Oklahoma State University. Ms. White was awarded the School of Public Health Dean Senior Scholar Award at University of Maryland, College Park. She was also a recipient of the Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (CIE) Scholars Program and the Entrepreneurship and Empowerment in South Africa (EESA) Program at Oklahoma State University. She serves as a student senator for the National Catholic School of Social Services. She is a student representative for the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work. She is a graduate research assistant for the Center for the Promotion of Health and Mental Health Well-Being.

Jeanni Simpson is a second year graduate student at the Howard University School of Social Work (HUSSW) where she studies Direct Practice with a Mental Health concentration and currently serves as the Student Council Association President. Ms. Simpson is a Mordecai Wyatt Johnson Scholarship recipient, International Young Leaders Assembly participant, and served as a member of the 2014 delegation for the HUSSW International Service Learning Program – South Africa in Cape Town. Her greatest accomplishment to date is serving as a summer 2014 White House Intern in the Office of Presidential Correspondence. Ms. Simpson is a native of Racine, WI.

David Paul is a second year graduate student at the National Catholic School of Social Service at Catholic University in Washington, DC., where he serves as Diversity Co-chair for the Master’s Student Association. Mr. Paul returned to school after seven years advocating for LGBT rights through his work with the Human Rights Campaign. Even though he plans to focus on clinical work upon graduation, Mr. Paul remains committed to advocating for all marginalized populations in his social work practice. Mr. Paul is a native of North Carolina and has his Master’s of Divinity from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA.
PHILECIA TYRELL
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Philecia Tyrell is a graduate student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore where she studies Social Work with a concentration in Community Action and Social Policy. She is currently a member of the Community Action Network and Social Work Community Outreach Services at the university, working to help develop the city of Baltimore. She is native from Orlando, Florida and graduated from the University of Central Florida in 2013. In 2012 she worked with the organization His Hands to go into New Orleans, rebuilding homes and planting community gardens to address the current food desert following Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Tyrell chose social work because she believes in a fair quality of life for all people. After graduation she plans to work in policy advocacy and community organization.

@MissPhilecia_T

Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Tyrell chose social work because she believes in a fair quality of life for all people. After graduation she plans to work in policy advocacy and community organization.
25 UNIVERSITIES REPRESENTED
BY STUDENTS
AT THE 2015 SOCIAL WORK
STUDENT ADVOCACY DAY ON
CAPITOL HILL

Members of Congressional Social Work Caucus who did not co-sponsor H.R. 1466—the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Reinvestment Act in the 113th Congress

Chair, Congressional Social Work Caucus
Rep. Barbara Lee @RepBarbaraLee

Members of Congressional Social Work Caucus who co-sponsored H.R. 1466—the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Reinvestment Act but are not members of the Congressional Social Work Caucus

CONGRESSIONAL TWITTER HANDLES
SPREAD THE WORD

#GENYSW

@gracenapolitano
Rep. Beto O'Rourke @BetoO'Rourke
Rep. Jared Polis @RepJaredPolis
Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard @repRoybalallard
Rep. Linda T. Sanchez @RepLindaSanchez
Rep. Loretta Sanchez @lorettasanchez
Robert C. Bobby Scott @RepBobbyScott
Rep. Jose E. Serrano @RepJoseSerrano
Rep. Kyrsten Sinema @kyrstensinema
Rep. Paul Tonko @RepPaulTonko
Rep. Maxine Waters @maxinewater
Rep. Joe Wilson @CongJoeWilson
Rep. John A Yarmuth @RepJohnYarmuth

@repbeatty
Rep. Michael Capuano @mikecapuano
Rep. Matt Cartwright @repcartwright
Rep. Joe Courtney @repjoecourtney
Rep. Joseph Crowley @repjosecrowley
Rep. Donna Edwards @repdonnaedwards
Rep. Eliot Engel @repleitolengel
Rep. Lois Frankel @reploisfrankel
Rep. Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr. @rephankjohnson
Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy, III @repjpkennedy
Rep. James P. McGovern @repmcgovern
Rep. Tim Ryan @reptimryan
Rep. Adam Schiff @repadamschiff
Rep. David Scott @repdavidscott
Rep. Albio Sires @repsires
Rep. Louise McIntosh Slaughter @louiseslaughter
Rep. Dina Titus @rdinatitus
Rep. Timothy Walz @repwalz

University of Buffalo
School of Social Work

University of Connecticut
School of Social Work

University of the District of Columbia
Division of Education, Health, and Social Work

University of Kentucky
College of Social Work

University of Maryland, Baltimore
School of Social Work

University of Maryland, Baltimore County,
The Baccalaureate Social Work Program

University of Montevallo
Social Work

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,
School of Social Work

University of Oklahoma
Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work

University of Southern California
School of Social Work

University of Michigan
School of Social Work

West Liberty University
Social Work

Arizona State University
School of Social Work

Bowie State University
School of Social Work

Catholic University of America
National Catholic School of Social Service

Coppin State University
Social Work

East Connecticut State University
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work

George Mason University
Department of Social Work

Howard University
School of Social Work

Hunter College
Silberman School of Social Work

McDaniel College
Social Work Program

Morgan State University
School of Social Work

Rutgers University
School of Social Work

Salisbury University
Social Work Department

University of Alabama
School of Social Work

University of Buffalo
School of Social Work

University of Kentucky
College of Social Work

University of Maryland, Baltimore
School of Social Work

University of Maryland, Baltimore County,
The Baccalaureate Social Work Program

University of Montevallo
Social Work

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,
School of Social Work

University of Oklahoma
Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work

University of Southern California
School of Social Work

University of Michigan
School of Social Work

West Liberty University
Social Work

#GENYSW
Student Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill - March 17, 2015 - marks the start of a student-led social work project to build momentum for advocacy on social work campuses in the Washington metropolitan area and across the country.

The kick-off event - timed to coordinate with the Congressional Social Work Caucus first annual Social Work Day on the Hill - provides hands-on advocacy training for social work students to learn how policy is shaped and how pertinent issues affecting the profession as a whole can be addressed at the national level. The reintroduction of the Social Work Reinvestment Act (SWRA), a groundbreaking bill addressing the challenges faced by the social work profession, will be a major focus of the training. Former Congressman Ed Towns will meet students in the Member Room of the Thomas Jefferson Building, Library of Congress, to review SWRA recommendations spanning recruitment, research funding, educational debt, salary inequalities, and more. Towns is Founder of the Congressional Social Work Caucus; he first introduced the SWRA in 2008.

Towns’ talk will be followed by an interactive discussion with a panel of experienced advocates, after which students will team up and head to the Cannon, Longworth, and Rayburn House Office Buildings to request legislators to support - or better yet, co-sponsor - SWRA. Arrangements have been made for a group photograph of the student committee leadership, volunteers and participants - all told, close to 200 students from social work schools nearby and as far away as California, Florida, Arizona, Alabama, Kentucky, and Oklahoma - gathering on the steps of the Capitol in the afternoon. Students will then join social workers from around the country at the Congressional Social Work Caucus reception celebrating the profession. Their day ends with a reception hosted by CRISP at the Congressional Black Caucus Institute House and an evening of informal networking.

Leading the Student Advocacy Initiative, which was initially proposed by Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work (GWSCSW) student member Shauntia White, is a broad-based team of Clinical and Macro social work students from the Catholic University of America (Ms. White and David Paul), Howard University (Jeanni Simpson) and the University of Maryland (Philecia Tyrell). This team has garnered the sponsorship of GWSCSW, the Congressional Research Institute for Social Work Policy (CRISP), the Congressional Social Work Caucus, and the Catholic University of America, and additional support as well from the Clinical Social Work Association, Social Work Helper and Brand U Inc. Their project has engendered enthusiastic participation from across the social work, legislative, and advocacy communities, and several dozen fellow students have committed to volunteering for a variety of tasks on Student Advocacy Day.

Beyond the March 17 event, the Student Advocacy Initiative will continue throughout the year, providing a variety of networking events and other opportunities for social work students to learn about and experience the power of direct advocacy. Strategic use of social media - such as Generation #YSocialWork, described by Ms. White as “where social work students can share their narrative of what led them to be in one of the best professions there is: social work!” - will extend the project’s reach to more social work programs, and establish the basis for next year’s student-led Annual Student Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill.

For additional information visit the website of the Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy at www.crispinc.org or the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work at www.gwscsw.org. Contact GWSCSW Student Representatives at yrsocialwork2015@gmail.com.