

2011 Chapter Annual Awards

The purpose of the Washington State Chapter of NASW Annual Awards is to honor social workers, a citizen, and an agency that have contributed significantly to their community and society. The awards are in the following categories: Social Worker, Social Work Educator, Outstanding Recent Graduate, Outstanding Student, Outstanding Agency, and Public Citizen. The Chapter invites nominations for these awards from Chapter and community members. A President's Award may be given for an exemplary contribution at the discretion of the Chapter President. *This is not necessarily an annual award.*

Universal criteria for:

Social Worker, Social Work Educator, Outstanding Recent Graduate and Outstanding Student

1. Is an NASW member.*
2. Demonstrates a strong adherence to social work values.
3. Demonstrates a personal and/or professional commitment to diversity and cultural inclusiveness.
4. Demonstrates outstanding leadership and contributes to a positive image for social work.

**Except social work student*

Social Worker

Honors a social worker that has exemplified the best of the profession's values and achievements.

Award specific criteria:

1. Makes a demonstrable difference in such areas as advocacy for clients or the profession, social policy, practice, program creation, administration development, or research.
2. Takes risks to achieve outstanding results.

Social Work Educator

Honors a social work educator in the state who has had a clear impact on the profession and on the individuals whom they teach.

Award specific criteria:

1. Is affiliated with an accredited social work education program.
2. Demonstrates a commitment to excellence in social work education.
3. Advocates elimination of racism and sexism in their teaching and incorporates current social trends.
4. Applies knowledge in their area of expertise to community service and extra-curricular activities.
5. Responds to students' needs and encourages student's professional growth.

Public Citizen

Honors a citizen who is not a social worker and has demonstrated significant contributions that are consonant with social work values and mission.

Award specific criteria:

1. Does not hold a social work degree.
2. Makes a significant contribution to an area or population of concern to social work such as public social issues, populations at risk, and quality of life for communities.
3. Exemplifies social work values and ethics.
4. Has a personal and professional commitment to diversity and cultural inclusiveness.
5. Demonstrates outstanding leadership and acts with courage and verve.

Outstanding Recent Graduate

Honors all recent graduates who are now working in Washington State and who has already demonstrated a strong adherence to social work values.

Award specific criteria:

1. Has graduated from an accredited MSW or BSW program within the last five years.
2. Has made a meaningful contribution to the profession (i.e., has designed a new program that has made a difference; implemented policy within an agency, attained licensure, works with difficult or at-risk populations).
3. Exhibits leadership potential

Outstanding Student

Honors a student currently in a social work program in our state who has demonstrated a strong adherence to social work values.

Award specific criteria:

2. Is attending a CSWE-accredited MSW or BSW program.

1. Demonstrates an interest in the profession beyond the academic arena, e.g., attendance at NASW events such as Lobby Day, the state conference, student NASW retreats, student NASW meetings.

Outstanding Agency

Honors an agency, department, organization, or government entity, which best exemplifies social work values in the field.

Award specific criteria:

1. Promotes and upholds NASW standards and ethics.
2. Has personnel policies that reflect social work values in practice, including a mechanism to support employees and management experiencing personal difficulties.
3. Has an ongoing mechanism for evaluating its administrative functions that includes evaluations from employees and clientele.
4. Has a diversity of employees that matches clientele and/or has policy that implements culturally competent practice.

President's Award

Given at the discretion of the Washington Chapter President, this award recognizes that all excellent, outstanding performances and merit cannot be easily categorized.

Award specific criteria:

1. Exemplifies social work values and ethics.
2. Has a personal and professional commitment to diversity and cultural inclusiveness.

