

Joan Edwards, Student At Touro, Receives National Social Work Student Award

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At the annual meeting of the National Association of Social Workers, Dr. Steven Huberman, Dean of Touro College's Graduate School of Social Work, congratulates Joan Edwards, recipient of the NASW's Social Work Student Award.

Joan Edwards, soon to be graduating with her master's degree in social work from Touro College's Graduate School of Social Work, has received the Social Work Student Award from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Ms. Edwards received the award at the NASW's annual meeting, recently held at the headquarters of the United Federation of Teachers in Manhattan.

"Joan Edwards, a formerly homeless person, has made a difference as a strong advocate for the most vulnerable populations in New York City," said Dr. Steven Huberman, dean of the Graduate School of Social Work. "She is a brilliant student, has overcome many obstacles in her life, and stands as an example for others to do the same."

The NASW honored Ms. Edwards for her outstanding dedication to social-work values and her remarkable leadership in organizing social-work students. During the past year, she has worked as a counselor at the Lehman Brothers Residence, a women's shelter in the Bronx, run by Women in Need, Inc., while studying for her MSW. She also works as an addictions counselor at the Women's Center for Substance Abuse and Wellness at Casa Rita in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx, a clinic that is also run by Women In Need.

This past January, Ms. Edwards was part of a team of students and professors from the graduate school that assisted the New York City Department of Homeless Services with its annual Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE). Vital information was collected as volunteers canvassed parks, subways, and other public spaces to count the number of people living unsheltered in the city.

Established in 2006, the Touro College Graduate School of Social Work provides coursework in clinical social work leading to a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. With 153,000 members, the NASW is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the country.