

Texas State School of Social Work Scholarship Opportunities

Texas State School of Social Work has three ongoing endowed scholarship opportunities: the Karen Brown Scholarship, the Walter Richter Scholarship, and the Terry Murdock Scholarship. These scholarships are offered periodically, and the award amount varies. The School alerts students to application times and procedures via broadcast email and on the website.

The Karen Brown Scholarship

Texas State School of Social Work

Dr. Karen Brown, a social work practitioner in Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Dallas, Texas moved in 1975 to San Marcos, Texas. Holding degrees from Southwestern University, (Georgetown, Texas), the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, and the University of Texas-Austin, Dr. Brown joined the social work faculty at Texas State University San Marcos (then Southwest Texas State University) in the early 1970's as a part-time adjunct faculty member and eventually a full-time faculty member. In 1986, Dr. Brown became Director of what grew from a small institute to a Department to a School, serving in that capacity until 2003.

Dr. Brown nurtured the School from a small unit offering the BSW to a vigorous School offering both the BSW and MSW degrees, both of which have been fully accredited by Council on Social Work Education from their inceptions. In partnership with Dr. Nancy Chavkin, Dr. Brown applied for and were granted a Title IVE contract in 1995 which they co-directed until her retirement in 2008; it continues to this day. She was also co-founder and co-director, with Dr. Chavkin, of the interdisciplinary research Center for Children and Families from 2001 until 2004 and director from 2004 to 2008.

Dr. Brown's contributions to Texas State School of Social Work are almost too numerous to mention. She built the School with courage and energy, providing excellent educational experiences for many hundreds of social workers who have added immeasurably to the quality of life of their clients. A committed activist, Dr. Brown nurtured a hands-on atmosphere in the School, in which students were encouraged to engage in advocacy for and society's most vulnerable citizens. Dr. Brown, mother to two children, two step-children, and four grandchildren, is married to Karl Brown. They are deeply involved in San Marcos civic and political activities.

The Karen Brown Scholarship was established by friends and colleagues of Dr. J. Karen Brown in recognition of her distinguished contributions to the Texas State School of Social Work. The scholarship acknowledges Dr. Brown's commitment to social work practice with vulnerable children and families.

MSW students in good standing who are enrolled in the upcoming academic year are eligible to apply every other year (alternating with BSW students). Successful applicants must maintain a high GPA for the duration of the scholarship, and must be interested in working with vulnerable children and families. Preference will be given to students who are bilingual or who are working toward becoming bilingual. They must also show evidence of financial need. The School will send a broadcast email to all students regarding specific application deadlines and criteria.

Dorothy Jean and Walter Richter Scholarship

Texas State School of Social Work

The Honorable Walter H. Richter was a great friend to Texas State and to the School of Social Work. A former Texas state senator who was responsible for the legislation that created the Texas Department of Aging, Walter Richter held two degrees from this University (in history and education). He served as Executive Director of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity. As a result of his performance, President Lyndon Johnson—also a graduate of Texas State—appointed Richter as Director of the Southwest Region Office of Economic Opportunity. At President Johnson's request, Richter served as Chair of the Texas Delegation of to the White House Conference on Children and Youth. Richter was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Board. He also served as Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture in Texas, as well as Director of the Texas Drug Abuse Program. He died in 2003.

Walter Richter's wife, Dorothy Jean Richter, also graduated from this University. She is still very active in civic affairs and public service, as she has been all of her life. Affectionately known as the unofficial "Mayor" of her neighborhood, Dorothy Jean was prominent in persuading the Austin City Council to ban smoking in public places.

Together Dorothy Jean and Walter Richter established substantial discretionary and student scholarship funds at Texas State.

The Dorothy Jean and Walter Richter Scholarship honors Dorothy Jean and Walter Richter and their steadfast dedication to promoting the common good in our society through distinguished life-long public service.

BSW and MSW students who are interested in this scholarship must evidence interest in policy practice and public service. They must be enrolled and in good standing at Texas State University-San Marcos in the academic year of the award.

Terri O’Gara Murdock Scholarship

Texas State School of Social Work

Terri A. Murdock, a native of South Sioux City, Nebraska, earned her baccalaureate degree at Morningside College and her MSW at Texas State. She had just started a new adventure as director of resident services at Eskaton Village in Sacramento, California, when she was diagnosed with cancer. At only 42, Terri passed away due to this disease in 2004. Prior to her death, Terri, who loved social work and loved her time at Texas State, arranged to endow a scholarship in her name for aspiring social workers at Texas State.

The Terri O’Gara Murdock Scholarship honors the memory of Terri O’Gara Murdock, who was a 1998 MSW graduate of Texas State. The scholarship acknowledges Ms. Murdock’s commitment to the mission of the School and her contribution to the social work profession.

MSW students in good standing who will be enrolled in the upcoming academic year are eligible to apply. They must be committed to serving the public sector.

From time to time, scholarships and stipend opportunities emerge from grants and contracts. Watch for broadcast emails and web site announcements about these opportunities.