



PRESS RELEASE

Social Work Month Events Focus On Diversity

March 15, 2006

TALLAHASSEE, Fla -- The face of America is changing, and the social work profession must be ready to deal with the challenges that come with demographic shifts.

That's why the Florida State University College of Social Work is celebrating Social Work Month with a series of events relating to diversity, culminating with a lecture by a national expert on multiculturalism and community development.

Professor Lorraine Gutierrez of the University of Michigan will deliver the Joy Sloan Jinks Lecture on Community Development and Organizational Change at 9 a.m. Friday, March 31, at the Turnbull Conference Center Auditorium. Gutierrez's talk, "The Changing Demography of America: Implications for Communities," will be of interest to community leaders and social work alumni and practitioners, said organizer Wendy Crook, associate professor of social work at FSU. The lecture is open to the public.

"This topic is so contemporary," Crook said. "America really and truly is changing. Hispanics are now the majority minority, and whites soon will be in the minority. We need to think about what some of the implications of these changes are."

Social Work Month will kick off Wednesday, March 15, with a panel discussion on "Legislative Hot Topics for Social Workers." The panel will be made up of recent FSU graduates who are working as lobbyists, legislative staff and policy analysts. They will discuss legislative issues and how their social work education prepared them to serve in this arena.

Other events, also open to the public, include:

*** Tuesday, March 21** - Diversity Issues Colloquium with moderators Keithen Mathis and Judge Kathleen Kearney, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., 1703 University Center C. Mathis is a lecturer and Kearney is visiting faculty administrator, both in the College of Social Work.

*** Wednesday, March 22** - College of Social Work Open House, featuring cake, displays and door prizes, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 1st floor lobby, University Center C.

*** Monday, March 27** - Lobby Day at the Legislature, sponsored by the National Association of Social Workers-Florida Chapter, 9 a.m., Old Capitol.

CONTACT:

Crook

(850) 644-9596

wcrook@mailier.fsu.edu



Florida | **Campus Compact**

Media Contact:

Justin Cross, Public Relations Assistant

Email: justin@floridacompact.org

Phone: (850) 488-7782