

Excellence in Field Education Award

Roberta (Bobbi) Jennings

I found my way to social work through a long and winding path of career choices, from a cosmetologist, to a salon manager, and finally to a stint in the health insurance industry. Eventually I reached a point in my life where I was ready to pursue a career in service to the community that I had always wanted, but never felt ready to start. I now feel that my unconventional path to social work has been an asset to my BSW education.

My diverse background provides me with invaluable work-life experience that I can now bring to my new standpoint of Social Work Values and Ethics. During my BSW program, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the 15th Annual HDEART Disparities in Health in America: Working Toward Social Justice 2017 summer workshop, which was a life-changing experience for me, and helped to clarify my future goals and career direction.

After graduating with my BSW from UHD in May 2018, I will be headed to graduate school for my Master's in Social Work. I would like to pursue a career in medical social work research, health disparities, public health, and health policy.

I want to thank my family and friends for their endless support of my journey, and the incomparable University of Houston-Downtown Bachelor of Social Work faculty who go far above and beyond with their passion to educate the next generation of Social Work professionals. Specifically, I want to thank my field practicum instructors Sarah King and Colleen Dillahunty at Ronald McDonald House Houston, and Dr. Heather Honore Goltz for her compassionate guidance.