



## **Press Release**

**For Immediate Release:** Monday, January 14 2013

**Contact:** Jessica Mackinnon, director of public information  
(708) 524-6289, [jmack@dom.edu](mailto:jmack@dom.edu)

### **Dominican University receives grant from Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County**

**River Forest, IL** – Dominican University’s Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW) has received a \$100,000 grant from the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County (HFNLC) to provide scholarships for ethnically diverse students pursuing master’s degrees in social work at the University Center of Lake County (UCLC). The HFNLC Social Work Scholars Program is designed to meet a growing need in northern Lake County for bicultural and bilingual licensed social workers with the skills to serve the medical, behavioral and mental health needs of this increasingly diverse area.

Dominican’s GSSW will partner with local social service agencies serving underrepresented, underserved and economically challenged populations in northern Lake County to identify and recruit current bilingual and bicultural employees who would benefit from the scholarship program. Scholarship recipients must commit to continuing employment with their agency for two years following receipt of their master’s degrees.

A total of five scholarships covering most of the current cost of tuition will be available through the scholars program. A rigorous screening program will identify those students who demonstrate a track record of commitment to the northern Lake County community and to working with underserved populations.

“As a social work program dedicated to the training of social workers who are committed to serving those in need, we are humbled to be chosen for this opportunity to train deserving and talented individuals who are committed to serving Lake County residents,” said Dr. Charles Stoops, dean of the Graduate School of Social Work.

Lake County has experienced a significant increase in its Latino population in the past 10 years. According to the US Census Bureau, the number of Latino residents in the county increased 51 percent between 2000 and 2010. The 2010 Lake County Comprehensive Survey of Nonprofit Programs, Operations and Locations indicates that one of the most significant barriers to social services for this growing population is the lack of linguistically and culturally competent staff. Providing Spanish-speaking and culturally competent social workers would help remove this barrier.

Dominican University is one of the original 12 public and private universities participating in the University Center of Lake County in Grayslake and, since 2006, has offered its master's degree in social work at the Center. The Graduate School of Social Work's globally focused program is uniquely prepared to meet the needs of ethnically diverse clients and families. The school provides specialization certificate programs in gerontology, school social work and working with military families.

For more information about Dominican University's GSSW and the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County Social Work Scholars Program, contact 708-366-3463 or [msw@dom.edu](mailto:msw@dom.edu).

Founded in 1901, Dominican University is a comprehensive, coeducational Catholic institution offering bachelor's degrees through the Rosary College of Arts and Sciences and master's degrees through the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, the Brennan School of Business, the School of Education, the Graduate School of Social Work and the School of Professional and Continuing Studies. The university also offers a doctoral degree in library and information science. In the 2013 issue of *America's Best Colleges*, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Dominican University in the top 20 of Midwest regional universities. The magazine also ranked Dominican as one of three Great Schools at a Great Price in Illinois.