



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Advancing the Field

School of Social Work Hosts Texas School Social Work Conference Feb. 25-27

February 5, 2009

AUSTIN, Texas — More than 300 school-based social workers will attend the 18th annual Texas School Social Work Conference, "School Social Workers: Connecting. Inspiring. Empowering.," at the Doubletree Hotel Feb. 25-27.

The conference, hosted by the nationally recognized School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin, provides school-based social service providers with a wide array of effective techniques and programs designed to enhance their work and offer new strategies and tools they can use to empower students, parents and school personnel.

Kathy Armenta, LCSW, clinical associate professor of social work, has served as conference chair since 1999. Armenta and colleague Liz Nowicki, director of professional development, and a committee of school social work practitioners and faculty plan the conference each year. Their efforts are enhanced by volunteer assistance from many School of Social Work students.

The 2009 conference will feature a keynote address by Charles Hiteshew of [America's Promise Alliance](#) in Washington, D.C., where he is executive vice president and special assistant to the president for mission advancement. Hiteshew's presentation, "Holistic School Reform with Social Workers at the Center" will provide an overview of the national drop-out challenge with a focus on Texas. He will discuss the critical role that school social workers have in connecting students with the key developmental resources they need to be successful.

Keynote presenters during the three-day conference also include: Sandra Lopez, clinical associate professor, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work; Texas Senator Eliot Shapleigh (District 29), and Tim Eubanks, lead community organizer, Austin Voices for Education and Youth.

A complete [2009 conference schedule](#) and [registration information](#) are available online.

For more information, contact: Liz Nowicki, Director of Professional Development, 512-471-2886, lbnowicki@mail.utexas.edu