

# California Social Work Hall of Distinction

## The Social Work Leaders Assignment

Enhancing student awareness of social welfare history and leadership practices

Studying a *Hall of Distinction* inductee has proven to be a valuable and easily-incorporated assignment at various social work schools in California. Students quickly find role models who reflect their specific backgrounds, values, and interests and whose stories build motivation and confidence to affect positive changes to our society. Sharing observations in writing, orally, or with presentations or videos, the collective group gains an improved understanding of the history of their chosen profession, the attributes and strategies of its innovators, and are inspired to examine and develop their own leadership skills.

Below is a sample assignment. Click [here](#) to view a student video project inspired by revered teacher, program director and community activist, Royal Morales (pictured at right.)

We encourage you to incorporate this activity into your leadership and policy courses, share the assignment with colleagues, and contact us with your feedback and questions. We also invite you to nominate your hero for induction to the Hall.

Please join us at the annual Hall of Distinction inductions and encourage your students to attend. Inductions are held in conjunction with the NASW-CA Conference. Our donors provide sponsored tickets for social work students.

<http://www.socialworkhallofdistinction.org/>

### Sample Social Work Leaders Assignment

Students will visit [www.socialworkhallofdistinction.org](http://www.socialworkhallofdistinction.org), choose one of the social work leaders identified and review their biography and oral history interview, if available. Students will then prepare a short presentation or one-page paper that addresses the following:

- 1) Identify and describe the honoree
- 2) In what field of social work was the honoree a pioneer?
- 3) What were the honoree's major contributions?
- 4) What insight can be gained from the honoree's leadership?
- 5) What is the importance of studying social work leaders that have come before us?

*"It makes me believe that I can achieve similar outcomes."*

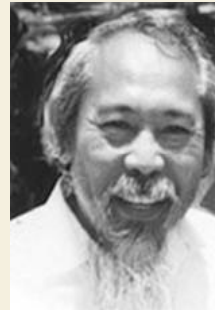
*MSW Candidate,  
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work*



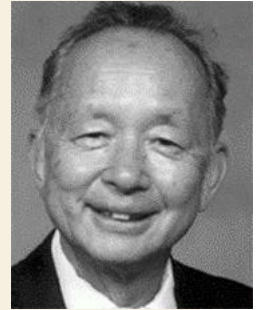
Zdenka Buben (a 2002 Inductee) in 1950



Biddu Mason (1818-1891)



Royal Morales (1932-2001)



Harry Kitano (1926-2002)

*"My students comment about the diversity of inductees, the humble beginnings of several inductees, and the level of impact one can have on policy and practice."*

*Dr. Monika White, USC*

**USC**  
**Suzanne  
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