

Harold Lewis Scholarship

What is the Harold Lewis Scholarship?

This scholarship is in honor of and in memory of Dr. Harold Lewis, Dean of Hunter College School of Social Work from 1970-1990. The scholarship will be given to a student who, through outstanding achievement in previous work with clients and/or communities, manifests the capacity to excel and make a significant contribution in the field of social work promoting the following ideals: alleviation of social inequalities, dedication to social justice, and addressing community need. Examples of such achievement could include exceptional ability in work with a particular group or community, initiation of a special program to meet client/community need, or other evidence of experience and creativity in social work arenas.



Who was Dr. Harold Lewis?

Dr. Harold Lewis made significant contributions to the social work profession through teaching, research, and writing. Dr. Lewis served as second dean of the School of Social Work at Hunter College of the City University of New York (CUNY) from 1970 to 1990. Under his leadership, Hunter College became the first professional school in the CUNY system to offer a doctorate, and was the first social work graduate school at a public university to be ranked among the top 10 graduate social work schools in the nation. Moreover, Dr. Lewis developed and advanced the idea of allowing graduate students to pursue a second specialty in addition to their core studies of casework. This concept, initiated at Hunter, was eventually adopted by the Council on Social Work Education as a requirement for educational programs in all graduate social work schools.

In addition to serving as dean at Hunter, Dr. Lewis taught on the faculty of four graduate social work programs and directed research in social welfare in Nebraska, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania. He held national leadership positions in social work education and practice, and served on the editorial boards of five journals. He was one of the founders of *The Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, and published more than 100 articles and papers. Dr. Lewis' book, *The Intellectual Base of Social Work Practice: Tools for Thought in a Helping Profession*, published in 1982, served as a landmark text for the profession.

Dr. Lewis received a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and a doctorate in social work from University of Pennsylvania. His many honors include an honorary doctorate awarded by University of Pennsylvania and the President's Medal awarded by Hunter College in 2000.

Harold Lewis passed away on July 18, 2003.

How to Apply:

Applicants must:

- be an incoming student for the fall semester
- demonstrate outstanding achievement in previous work
- demonstrate the potential for excellence in field education
- show a commitment to issues of social justice, social change, and community needs
- have a FAFSA on file
- have Community Organizing as their major method

Application Procedure:

- Complete Silberman Scholarship application and notate Harold Lewis Scholarship
- Essay– In no more than 500 words, please address your commitment to issues of social justice and addressing community needs in your work, and volunteer experiences. Discuss your vision and goals in this capacity as it relates to Dr. Lewis' work. Note any life challenges or struggles that have influenced your commitment to these issues.
- Cover Page– Create a cover page including your name, mailing address, contact numbers, e-mail (if applicable), names and titles of references.
- Resume- Listing professional and volunteer history– List all relevant experiences.
- References– Include two letters of reference from supervisors in a professional or volunteer setting or an internship. Letters should emphasize your commitment to social justice, community needs, and social change. Be sure to include a copy of your Silberman Partial Tuition Waiver application with your application for a scholarship from the Harold Lewis Fund.

Nominations for the \$1,500 award will be reviewed by the Harold Lewis Award Committee that oversees the selection of candidates and the presentation of the award.

Deadline for scholarship applications is July 15th.

For additional information regarding the application process, please contact scholar@hunter.cuny.edu