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NEWS RELEASE: International Social Science Association to Give Awards to Two Nevada Organizations

Las Vegas, NV – The [Society for the Study of Social Problems](#) (SSSP) will hold its 61st annual meeting at Harrah's Las Vegas, August 19-21, 2011.

SSSP President A. Javier Trevino chose the theme of “[Service Sociology](#)” for this year's meeting. In his words, “Service sociology is a sociology of social problems intended to ameliorate conditions for life for those in need of assistance, and to insure and promote the welfare of the community. Motivated by care and compassion, a service-oriented sociology is aimed at helping people meet their pressing social needs. As such, service sociology involves the application of sociological knowledge combined with the expression of humanitarian sentiment in neighborly service.”

SSSP is an international social science organization based in the U.S. Its members include academics, researchers and practitioners of sociology and other related social sciences. SSSP's mission is to encourage and provide a platform for dialogue and research on the nature and causes of social problems and to develop informed social policy solutions to these problems. The annual meeting brings together leading researchers and activists from around the world to present and discuss their research.

In the spirit of humanitarianism and neighborly service, and consistent with its commitment to practice, SSSP selected *Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN)* to be the recipient of its AIDS Fundraiser. Founded in 1984, AFAN is the oldest and largest AIDS service organization in Nevada. It provides services to nearly 2000 men, women and children with HIV. Its mission is to enhance the physical health and psychosocial wellness of the individuals it serves, while promoting their dignity and improving the quality of their lives. For more information on the services AFAN provides, visit: www.afanlv.org.

SSSP also selects a local organization engaged in innovative social action in the city hosting its annual meeting. SSSP will present the 2011 Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award to representatives from *Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP)*. Representatives from SWOP will discuss their work in a special session on Saturday (at 4:30pm), and then will accept the Social Action Award at the annual awards banquet (at 8:00pm).

This year's annual meeting committee expects a record number of attendees who will participate in 140 sessions, thematic workshops, and panels on researching, teaching and practicing social justice work. In addition to research presentations, a book exhibit, film screenings, an ACLU Tour to the Fremont Street Experience, and many other social events are planned.

The events are open to the public for a registration fee; banquet tickets are also available for purchase from the SSSP website: <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/354/fuseaction/ssspconf.portal>, or on the day of the event at Harrah's Las Vegas. Students are especially encouraged to attend the conference and are offered discounted membership and registration rates.

Highlights of the meeting include:

Thursday, August 18

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Welcoming Reception

Friday, August 19

8:30 am – 10:10 am Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues among Military Personnel

8:30 am – 10:10 am New Trends in Violence and Deviance

10:30 am – 12:10 pm Servicing Drug Users: From Harm Reduction to Drug Treatment

10:30 am – 12:10 pm Sociology of Law and Public Policy

12:30 pm – 2:10 pm Servicing Parenting and Children's Needs

12:30 pm – 2:10 pm Building Greener Communities: Redefining Quality of Life

2:30 pm – 4:10 pm Reproductive Health: Current Issues and Prospects for Change

2:30 pm – 4:10 pm Serving Immigrant Students: Research and Advocacy

2:30 pm – 4:10 pm Immigration, Exclusion, and Human Rights: Changes in State and Local Policy

4:30 pm – 6:10 pm Impact of Economic Recession on Housing and Work Careers

4:30 pm – 6:10 pm Mental Health Treatment and Community Care

Saturday, August 20

8:00 am – 9:40 am Community Problems and Community Organizations

8:00 am – 9:40 am Health Services and Health Disparities

8:00 am – 9:40 am Race and Undocumented Immigrants

8:00 am – 9:40 am Juvenile and other Specialty Courts

11:10 am – 12:20 pm Presidential Address: The Challenge of Service Sociology

12:30 pm – 2:10 pm The Scholarship of Critical Community Engagement

12:30 pm – 2:10 pm Re-Integrating Veterans and others Involved in the Criminal Justice System

2:30 pm – 4:10 pm Organizing for Educational Change

2:30 pm – 4:10 pm What Kind of Problem is a "Mental Illness"?

2:30 pm – 4:10 pm Aging in Spaces/Places

- 2:30 pm – 4:10 pm Social Movements, Unions and Workers Rights
- 2:30 pm – 4:10 pm Film Exhibit: *The Billionaire's Tea Party: How Corporate America is Faking a Grassroots Revolution*
- 4:30 pm – 6:10 pm Understanding the Consequences of the Financial Crisis
- 4:30 pm – 6:10 pm Reducing Risks to Drug Users
- 6:45 pm – 10:00 pm Reception Honoring our Past Presidents and Awards Banquet

Sunday, August 21

- 8:30 am – 10:10 am Sex and the Body
- 8:30 am – 10:10 am Living with Chronic Illness in Diverse Settings and Communities
- 8:30 am – 10:10 am Judicial and Legislative Responses to Social Problems
- 10:30 am – 12:10 pm Anti-LGBTQ Bullying and Harassment: Renewed Attention to Old Problems
- 10:30 am – 12:10 pm Higher Education: Policies and Practices
- 10:30 am – 12:10 pm Law and Domestic Abuse
- 12:30 pm – 2:10 pm Preventing Overdoses, Saving Lives
- 12:30 pm – 2:10 pm Health, Health Policy, and Health Services
- 2:30 pm – 4:10 pm Youth, Health, and the Social Construction of Risk
- 2:30 pm – 4:10 pm School Violence and other Crimes of Mass Disaster
- 4:30 pm – 6:10 pm Meeting Community Needs
- 4:30 pm – 6:10 pm Sanctions and Punishment

To view the entire program, please visit the SSSP website at: <http://www.sssp1.org>.