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## LGBTQ+ Youth Advocate Recognized with Social Worker of the Year Award

**Lisle, IL**— For generations, the social work profession has worked to strengthen the well-being and meet the basic needs of all people, especially people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. In continuation of this year's National Professional Social Work Month theme, "Generations Strong," the National Association of Social Workers, Illinois Chapter (NASW-IL) is honoring the work of some exceptional Illinois social workers and individuals of every generation, whose work promotes social justice and social change with and on behalf of the people and clients they serve.

One such exemplary Illinois social worker being honored this year is 2020 NASW-Illinois Chapter Statewide Social Worker of the Year awardee Jude Hines. **Jude Hines** (*PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago; MSW, Aurora University; JD, University of Illinois at Chicago; LCSW*) is currently school social worker for The School Association for Special Education in DuPage County (SASED), a special education cooperative in DuPage/West Cook Counties. She works with students with a variety of disabilities including deaf and hard-of-hearing and students in transition (18 to 22 years old). Her doctoral research focus was examining associations between internalized heterosexism, outness, relationship satisfaction, and intimate partner violence in lesbian relationships. She has been actively involved with Youth Outlook, an agency that serves LGBTQ+ youth in the western suburbs for 16 years, the Open and Affirming Committee at her church, and she provides LCSW supervision.

In support of her nomination of Jude, SASED program administrator Christine DiRienzo wrote: "Jude Hines has been a valuable member of our agency and everyone who works with her has the opportunity to learn from her wisdom, experience, balance, and passion for our students. She is an excellent example of an outstanding social worker in her field."

Fellow colleague Kirsten Schmidt, MEd, also wrote: "I have had the honor and privilege to work with Jude over the last 10 years and am continually impressed by her dedication, knowledge and advocacy work for individuals with disabilities and their families.... Students respond and interact with Jude in a positive manner because she is an active listener, is very respectful and approachable."

The NASW-Illinois Chapter is proud of the work of Jude Hine and others like her who fight every day for the underserved and underprivileged in Illinois. Jude is one of four individuals being honored as this year's NASW-Illinois Chapter Statewide Awardees. To learn more about the other statewide awardees, please visit the NASW-Illinois Chapter website ([www.naswil.org](http://www.naswil.org)) or contact Joel L. Rubin, executive director, at [jrubin.naswil@socialworkers.org](mailto:jrubin.naswil@socialworkers.org).

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*The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, with over 120,000 members. The NASW-Illinois Chapter is one of the association's largest chapters with over 5,000 members in Illinois alone. NASW strives to advance social work careers, grow social work businesses, and protect the profession.*