

# News Release

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> 2003

## Center for Social Concerns presents Ganey Award and mini-grant

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Date: May 13, 2003

Two faculty members, a graduate student in Notre Dame's sociology department, and South Bend's Center for the Homeless have all been honored by a special award and research grant given by the University's Center for Social Concerns.

Richard A. Williams, associate professor of sociology, has received the Rodney F. Ganey, Ph.D., Faculty Community-Based Research Award. The award, named after a former Notre Dame sociology professor, recognizes distinguished research conducted for a local nonprofit or community organization.

Felicia LeClere, associate professor of sociology at Notre Dame, sociology graduate student Eugene Walls, and South Bend's Center for the Homeless have received the inaugural Rodney F. Ganey, Ph.D., Collaborative Community-Based Research Mini-Grant. The mini-grant is intended to encourage projects undertaken by Notre Dame faculty, students and the local community which "result in measurable, positive impacts in the South Bend area, reflect the investment of faculty expertise in the local community, and offer students community-based learning opportunities that promote civic responsibility."

A member of the Notre Dame faculty since 1986, Williams has for many years conducted a federally funded research project entitled "Racial, Economic, and Institutional Disparities in Home Mortgage Lending." His research revealed significant disparities in the services provided by area lenders to low income and minority neighborhoods and individuals. The research has enabled a community organization, Citizen's Action for South Bend Housing-Plus (CA\$H-PLU\$), to secure agreements from local financial institutions to increase their lending to previously underserved neighborhoods. Assisted by Notre Dame graduate students in sociology, Williams gradually extended his research to lending services across the state of Indiana. Recently, with funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the National Science Foundation, he and his colleagues have begun to replicate and extend their research efforts nationwide.

The new Ganey mini-grant will support a project entitled "Toward a Research-Practice Model, Phase II: Improving the Center for the Homeless' Capacity for Integration of Research into Program Development, Capacity Building and Community Education." The project is intended to strengthen the center's programs and secure additional funding for them and to deepen public understanding of the needs of homeless people.

Rodney F. Ganey, president of Press Ganey Associates, was a member of Notre Dame's sociology

faculty from 1979-96. In 1985, he and Notre Dame anthropology professor Irwin Press founded Press Ganey Associates, Inc., now the nation's leading research firm specializing in patient satisfaction measurement.