Social Work Coordinator Honored for Lifetime Achievement

March 7, 2005 (Tempe, AZ) -- Josefina Ahumada, LCSW, associate coordinator of field education at the ASU School of Social Work’s Tucson Component, was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Southern Arizona Branch of the Arizona Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers on March 4, 2005.

This award is presented to a social worker who has demonstrated outstanding achievements, earned recognition beyond the social work profession, made contributions with lasting impact and exhibited outstanding creativity and courage. The winners exemplify the best social work values and lifetime career contributions to the advancement of social work.

Throughout her 30-year career as a psychiatric social worker, case management and crisis services program manager and clinical director at Tucson East Mental Health Center, Kino Community Hospital, Southern Arizona Mental Health Corporation, and the Arizona Center for Clinical Management Ahumada pioneered unique community services for seriously mentally ill clients and advocated for the Latino/Latina community. A graduate of the UCLA Graduate School of Social Welfare, she has been a role model for social work students and professionals.

At Arizona State University she has been an integral part of the development of programs that increase the cultural competence of students interested in borderlands work. She is also known for building strong and enduring community partnerships.

Ahumada has served as secretary-treasurer for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) National Council of Chapter Presidents and has served twice at the National Delegate Assembly. She has served the State chapter of NASW as board member, treasurer, and
president and currently chairs the nominations committee. She founded the Chapter’s Leadership Training Institute and serves on the board for numerous community organizations including the Tucson Women’s Commission, the YWCA, City of Tucson Human Relations Commission, United Way and Wingspan. She co-chairs the Arizona Behavioral Health Professional Coalition which sponsored the state licensure law for social workers.

As her nominator, Professor Ann Nichols noted, “Josefina encourages others to follow their passion, and she has truly followed hers. She has inspired many individuals to pursue social work as a career as she passionately expresses the values of the profession in her work and life.”

Other recognition she has received for community service, professional contributions, activism, and education activities include the prestigious YWCA “Woman on the Move” award for her contributions to health services and work against racism; the NASW- AZ Branch II “Social Worker of the Year” award; and the Arizona State University Ubiquity Award for Academic Contribution in Teaching.