

## **MSW student elected to be state-level MSW Student Representative**

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Brittany Thomas, MPA

Brittany Thomas, MPA, an online [Master of Social Work](#) (MSW) student, joined the [Louisiana chapter of the National Association of Social Workers \(NASW-LA\)](#) in hopes of connecting with the community of social workers in her area. After attending the NASW-LA 2025 annual conference in March, she was inspired to become more involved with the organization. In July, she was elected to be the organization's MSW Student Representative.

As the MSW Student Representative, she will serve as a voting member on the NASW-LA Board of Directors. Every quarter, she'll provide an update to the Board on important student-related concerns, activities, and topics of interest. She also hopes to help create opportunities for students navigating licensure, practicum education, and the search for employment after graduation.

"I hope to amplify student voices and ensure MSW students across Louisiana feel represented, supported, and connected, especially those in online or nontraditional programs," said Thomas. "I am truly excited to build stronger bridges between schools and NASW-LA so that students see the organization not just as a professional body, but as a source of real support and advocacy."

In addition to the NASW-LA conference, Thomas credits [Dr. Letitia Laurien's](#) Diversity and Social Justice course for her desire to become a student leader. The class explores the ways in which social problems are shaped by historical and socio-political influences. Thomas said it showed her "what it truly means to advocate for marginalized communities" and how social workers' personal beliefs and positionality impact their practice.

"Dr. Laurien's course reinforced the importance of making sure all voices, especially student voices, are heard," Thomas said. "Students often have valuable insights but may not always feel empowered to speak up."

Thomas hopes to use her role to empower those students to come to the table for important discussions about the social work field.

"To me, student leadership is about being a voice for your peers and using your position to bring attention to issues others may not have the platform or confidence to express. Advocacy means standing up for what's right and working to create systems that are more equitable and inclusive. As a student leader, I want to empower others to do the same," Thomas said.

Her advice to current MSW students? Get involved, stay informed, and take advantage of the continuing education and networking opportunities at your fingertips.

“Don’t be afraid to reach out or take the first step. Attend events, volunteer wherever possible, and connect with other members. NASW-LA truly welcomes student voices,” Thomas said. “Your perspective matters, and this is a great space to learn, lead, and grow.”

*If you have questions about or are interested in joining NASW-LA, please reach out to Brittany at [bthomas17@tulane.edu](mailto:bthomas17@tulane.edu).*

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