



HPGS Hideo “Major” Okada Scholar, Valerie Payton

Valerie Payton is a graduate student in social work, with a concentration in gerontology, at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. According to her nominator, “she is a brilliant clinician and researcher, and her commitment and a passion to the field of aging is outstanding.” Prior to returning to school for her master’s degree, Valerie volunteered in different agencies working with the elderly. She is currently completing a year long practicum at St. Francis Hospice.

Valerie also serves as a research assistant for the University of Hawaii Center on Aging’s training contract with the Executive Office on Aging. She has been responsible for the evaluation of a 9 month curriculum that develops and enhances the research capacity of planners in the aging network. Valerie’s responsibilities are to develop and implement the project evaluation plan, which consists of evaluation preparation, data collection, data analysis and final report writing. As the research assistant, she coordinates the work of five University of Hawaii faculty with the Executive Office on Aging and their partners.