Rebecca Donovan Scholarship

What is the Rebecca Donovan Scholarship?

This scholarship is in honor and memory of Dr. Rebecca Donovan, Associate Professor and Chair, Research Sequence at Hunter College School of Social Work who held a long-standing research interest in the unmet needs of low-income working women. The scholarship will be given to a student who is dedicated to social justice and gender and racial equity, particularly the welfare of low-income Black women and Latinas. One scholarship will be awarded: amount varies.

Who was Dr. Rebecca Donovan?

Dr. Rebecca Donovan (1946-1992) was the head of research at the Hunter College School of Social Work. She specialized in the study of the social consequences of economic change, such as the impact of job loss on individuals. Her landmark study, “The Health and Social Needs of Home Care Women,” documented inequities in the wages, benefits, and services to the predominantly African American and Latina women who provide home care to aged and disabled people in New York City. The study paved the way for major gains for these workers and a permanent ongoing working relationship between their union and the social work profession.

Born in Peoria, Ill., Dr. Donovan earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Missouri in 1968 and a doctorate from the Columbia School of Social Work in 1983. Before joining the Hunter faculty, she taught at New York University and Columbia, where she was research director of the school's Industrial Social Welfare Center.

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