



# UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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### UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH SOCIAL WORK PROFESSOR WINS TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD



WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (June 1, 2015) — Madeline Pérez, Ph.D., associate professor of Social Work and director of the Institute for Latino Community Practice at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), received the University's 2014–2015 Reverend John J. Stack Teaching Excellence Award. A resident of Hartford, Dr. Pérez earned her Ph.D. and M.Phil. from The Graduate Center, City University of New York, an MSW from Hunter College, City University of New York, and a B.A. from Saint Francis College (New York). She has been teaching at the University of Saint Joseph since 2009 and was recently promoted to associate professor and granted tenure. As the winner of the Stack Award, Dr. Pérez will deliver the Convocation Address at the start of the fall semester on August 27.

The Reverend John J. Stack Teaching Excellence Award carries a proud tradition of recognizing members of the faculty who have made outstanding contributions to student learning. In essence, this honor celebrates the very best in teaching — bringing a depth of scholarship to the classroom that inspires students and fosters academic achievement.

In making the award presentation, USJ Provost Michelle M. Kalis, Ph.D., remarked, “Dr. Pérez is a highly-respected faculty member who teaches in one of our oldest programs. She is a talented and reflective teacher who effectively applies a wealth of practice experience to bear upon the courses, and whose students consistently describe her as engaged, creative, energetic, supportive, and even inspirational.”

Students who nominated Dr. Pérez for the Award offered high praise, saying, “She is an amazing and thoughtful teacher who allows a student to develop their own inner voice.”

and “The opportunity to grade and critique our fellow students allowed for a deep introspective analysis and a level of sensitivity and empathy I have not experienced often.” Another student noted, “Dr. Pérez is a phenomenal educator. She truly inspired me to become a social worker.”

Dr. Pérez is married to Dr. Anthony DeJesus, associate professor of Social Work and director of Field Education for the University’s master’s in Social Work program.

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*The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master’s and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University’s two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 25 majors and seven pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at [www.usj.edu](http://www.usj.edu).*

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