

Veteran helps other Wounded Warriors

May 13, 2016 8:45 AM Joseph Halm

jhalm@tulane.edu



Jeremy Brewer is a member of the 2016 class from the Tulane School of Social Work master's degree program. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

Tulane University Master of Social Work candidate Jeremy Brewer, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, served two deployments in Iraq from 2001-05, but the plan was always to finish his degree.

After earning an undergraduate degree in psychology, Brewer decided that a graduate degree in social work was the best way to use his experiences to help other vets transitioning back to civilian life.

Brewer's graduate internship in the outpatient mental health clinic of the Veterans Affairs Hospital provided him mental health treatment experience with both individuals and groups.

"I learned a lot over there," says Brewer. "Not only about the profession and helping people, but also about the bureaucratic side of the VA. It was a great experience."

Brewer was so eager to help his fellow veterans that he completed his 990-hour internship early to accept a position as an outreach coordinator for the Wounded Warrior Project to help open the group's New Orleans office, which will cover Louisiana and Mississippi.

"To know that some of the things that I've gone through can be used to help others who are going through similar things is very rewarding," says Brewer. "Especially with my internship at the VA, I had an advantage with our clients because I am a vet. They knew that I had been there and had some common experience. It's been pretty awesome."

Brewer, who has been married for 13 years, has three daughters –10, 8 and 14 months.

"I look at it now, and I don't know how I had time for this," he says. "I worked full-time the whole time I was in undergrad and graduate school. I wish I had a good answer for how I did it. I just took care of the thing right in front of me and then moved to the next thing."

The 2016 Commencement ceremony will be [streamed live online](#). Follow us on social media at #tulane16.

"To know that some of the things that I've gone through can be used to help others who are going through similar things is very rewarding."

Jeremy Brewer