THE NATIONAL CERTIFIED COUNSELOR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR CERTIFIED COUNSELORS

New Board Member for NBCC

NBCC's Board of Directors has elected Dr. Rose M. Quiñones-DelValle to serve a three-year term on the NBCC Board.

Dr. Quiñones-DelValle is a therapy manager at the Neil Kennedy Recovery Clinic in Youngstown, Ohio, where she supervises and manages therapists, case managers, interns, counselors and volunteers, and acts as a liaison with county and local treatment courts. She also provides culturally and language-specific counseling, assessments and career guidance as a professional clinical counselor at PsyCareInc, and is a field instructor for the Youngstown

State University Social Work Department.

Prior to earning her doctorate at Kent State University, Dr. Quiñones-DelValle attended Youngstown State University, where she earned a bachelor's in history/Meso-American affairs with a minor in secondary education, completed degree requirements for a major in social work, and earned a master's in community counseling. She also holds the master addictions counselor (MAC) specialty credential.

She fills the position left by Dr. Kurt Kraus, who served as a director for six years.

Professional Identity Award Presented to the University of North Carolina-Greensboro

In 2009, NBCC introduced the NBCC Professional Identity Recognition for Counselor Education Programs. This national award recognizes programs for exemplary work in counselor preparation, commitment to professional identity

and 100-percent faculty participation as NCCs, and includes a one-time \$5,000 stipend for faculty and student professional development. The recipient of the inaugural award is the Department of Counseling and Educational Development (CED) at



NBCC Chair Dr. Kurt Kraus presents award to Dr. J. Scott Young of UNCG

the University of North Carolina–Greensboro.

"For us, it really is an honor to be recognized," says Dr. J. Scott Young, the department's chair. "To me, it's such an honor to work in a university with such a good program and exceptional quality

of professors and students. To have our little world recognized is just an absolute honor."

According to Dr. Young, the stipend most likely will go toward a structured service learning project he and

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Two NBCC credentials—the NCC and the MAC—are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.

NBCC GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Medicare

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590), a sweeping reform bill that expands health coverage to most Americans. While language adding counselors to the list of Medicare providers passed the House of Representatives in November 2009 and was under active consideration in the final stages of negotiation, it was not part of the Senate bill and was not included in the new health care law.

NBCC, along with the American Counseling Association (ACA), the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA), the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), and the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT), worked aggressively to get and keep language adding counselors to the list of Medicare providers in the reform package; however, budgetary issues took center stage. The cost of adding counselors to the list of providers was modest compared to the overall reform price tag, but all new spending was closely scrutinized. Many similar provisions did not make it through this screening—including a priority issue for social workers relating to reimbursement through skilled nursing facilities. The complete legislative package was uncertain until the House marshaled the votes to pass the Senate bill and the reconciliation bill (H.R. 4872) that incorporates the House-Senate compromises. The Senate passed the reconciliation bill on March 21, which sent the reform package to the president for final signature. While the health reform legislation did not include NBCC's top priority of counselor Medicare recognition,

it did include a couple items that benefit counselors and their clients. The first is the creation of behavioral workforce training grants and loan repayment programs that are available to counselors. Another is a nondiscrimination provision that takes effect in 2014 and prohibits insurers from discriminating against health care providers acting within the scope of their license.

While Congress will not be initiating any more major health care proposals this year, it will likely be addressing some lingering "must-pass" bills. The details and timing of the issues have not taken form yet, but NBCC will be working with our allies to include our counselor Medicare language in any viable health care vehicle that starts moving through Congress.

TRICARE/Defense



On May 14, 2010 Sens. Lieberman (I-CT), McCaskill

(D-MO) and Collins (R-ME) introduced legislation (S. 3371), which removes the onerous requirement that counselors obtain physician referral and supervision before seeing TRICARE beneficiaries. S. 3371 is similar to the House bill (H.R. 3839) introduced in 2009 by Reps. Rooney (R-FL) and McMahon (D-NY), except that it includes criteria from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report released in February 2010.

The IOM study was mandated by Congress in the FY2008 Defense Authorization legislation. The purpose of the study was to evaluate counselors' role in TRICARE. The IOM committee spent a year

researching the issue and completed its report in February 2010. The committee specifically recommended the removal of the physician referral and supervision requirements for counselors in TRICARE with the following criteria:

- A master's (or higher) degree in mental health counseling from a program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP);
- Obtained state licensure in mental health counseling at the "clinical" or highest level available;
- 3. Passed the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE); and
- 4. Have a well-defined scope of practice sufficient to permit a counselor to see TRICARE beneficiaries absent primary care physician supervision and referral.

While NBCC was pleased with the recommendation to grant independent practice authority to counselors under TRICARE, we do not support the inclusion of additional criteria. NBCC believes that licensure is the most appropriate standard for determining which professionals are qualified to practice independently. Currently, there are many counselors who have passed the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE) or graduated from a non-CACREP-accredited mental health counseling program who are capable of providing high-quality services to servicemen and women and their families

The IOM report has helped build support for removing the supervision and referral requirements in Congress,

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NBCC INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

On Fostering Counseling Worldwide: A Latino Counselor's Experiences at NBCC Headquarters By George Davy Vera

Dr. Vera is a full professor and the counselor graduate program past chair at the College of Humanities and Education, La Universidad del Zulia in Maracaibo, Venezuela.



Dr. George Davy Vera

Professional counseling in Venezuela and other Latin American countries is getting stronger and more socially visible. School counseling activities started during the 1930s and '40s, and have grown tremendously since then. Because of this growth, several professional counseling development needs are emerging; two of these needs are related to counseling professionalization and leadership. A way to address these needs is to create long-lasting professional interactions with international counseling organizations and related organizations worldwide, as well as with recognized counseling departments at universities,

and to attend leading counseling conferences and specialized training on diverse counseling knowledge and technology.

To this end, I organized a postdoctoral proposal focusing on these needs. My employer, the University of Zulia, accepted my proposal and granted me a sabbatical leave. However, many questions remained. Where should I go or who should I interact with in order to develop my postdoctoral proposal? In what part of the world are the professional counseling matters included in my proposal presently being dealt with?

The answers came in September 2009 when NBCC, a leading international professional counseling organization, invited me to be a visiting scholar and counselor in residence from March to May 2010. Accepting that invitation was one of the best professional decisions I've ever made because my experiences at NBCC helped me to reshape some of my leadership competencies and to develop a comprehensive view about the internationalization of the counseling profession.

At NBCC, I had the opportunity to engage in ongoing dialogue and interactions with well-known counseling leaders and scholars. Topics such as leadership, continuing education, counseling organizations, legislation, advocacy, counselor education program accreditation, and the challenges faced by the counseling profession worldwide were amply researched and discussed. Being able to exchange knowledge about these matters was very invigorating and helped me to understand some foreseen international trends in counseling development; to see strengths, differences and similitude; and to identify some key ideas for further collaborations and joint projects with counseling leaders and organizations in Latin America.

Additionally, discussions and practice experiences related to services, supervision, ethics and certification helped me to see how professional counseling leadership

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The Latest Developments With the MHF Credential

NBCC International (NBCC-I) is proud to be associated with organizations and institutions in countries worldwide as the Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) program continues to expand to meet the diverse needs of citizens of these countries.

Liberia

Four NBCC-I-registered MHF master trainers traveled to Monrovia, Liberia, in March 2010 to conduct an initial training of trainers in partnership with Lott Carey Mission School. These four master trainers were sponsored by The Joseph Alliance and were trained by NBCC-I in the first MHF master training class, which was held in January 2010. Sixty-seven trainers received their registration certificate at the conclusion of the training. The group included teachers, administrative staff and ministers. NBCC-I will continue to work with the master trainers and Lott Carey Mission School to expand the program in Liberia.

Malawi and Tanzania

The Guidance, Counselling and Youth Development Centre for Africa (GCYDCA) continues to be the leader for MHF development in Africa. NBCC-I staff recently traveled to the center to discuss the MHF program, among other projects. While there, staff met with guidance teachers trained in the curriculum and a group of students from several schools to talk about issues affecting children in Malawi. The guidance teachers have formed MHF clubs to assist Malawian children with their unique challenges.

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NBCC INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

The Latest Developments with the MHF Credential

Continued from page 3

NBCC-I staff also had the opportunity to meet with GCYDCA leadership and two registered MHF trainers from the December 2009 Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, training of trainers to discuss the expansion of the MHF program in Tanzania. A second training of trainers is being scheduled for fall 2010. The MHF curriculum will also be translated into Swahili for use in Tanzania and potentially in other African countries.

"Tanzania history of mental health services is riddled with limited resources and poor management, even for common disorders like depression, anxiety and traumatic conditions. Hence the coming of NBCC-I with its MHF program will indeed be very resourceful to alleviate the situation," says Eliezer R. Mdakilwa, president of Tanzania Users and Survivors of Psychiatry Organisation (TUSPO), an NGO in Dar Es Salaam.

Mexico

Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, the headquarters for NBCC Mexico, was the site of the MHF pilot training in 2007. The feedback from the participants in that training was essential in finalizing the original MHF curriculum. NBCC Mexico recently decided to expand the program in that country and held an MHF training in conjunction with a training of trainers at the university in April 2010. Twenty-four trainers and MHF registrants completed the program and became registered with NBCC-I. Participants included people from a wide variety of professions and some of the original MHF registrants from the pilot training.



Dr. Patricia Garcia Fernandez, MHF master trainer; Mr. Eitan Kleinberg, coordinator, NBCC Mexico; Dr. Daniel Paredes, MHF master trainer

Master Training of Trainers

The second MHF master training was held at NBCC headquarters in early May 2010. Eleven counselors were trained and registered as master trainers. As the program continues to expand, the addition of qualified master trainers who can assist in developing it are welcome. Individuals who are invited to become master trainers bring with them a combination of qualifications that are important to ongoing MHF development, such as early involvement in the program, international training and travel experience, and experience with credential development in the United States and/or other countries. NBCC-I staff are proud to welcome Dr. Fred Bradley, Dr. Matt Buckley, Dr. Marcheta Evans, Dr. Lorraine Giardino, Dr. Judy Green, Dr. Lynn Hall, Dr. Kurt Kraus, Dr. Dwaine Phifer, Dr. Stephen Sharp, Dr. Mary Jo Trombley, and Dr. George Vera as MHF master trainers. Plans for developing the MHF in other countries and within the U.S. were discussed with this dynamic group.

On Fostering Counseling Worldwide: A Latino Counselor's Experiences at NBCC Headquarters

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and professional practice are likely to be successful when professional counselors and counselor educators are able to conceptualize their practice focused on shared professional values, knowledge and procedures that are linked and that respond to the needs and contextual realities of people and societies.

Attending the ACA conference in Pittsburgh was another key experience. I was invited to speak about current challenges in Venezuela as part of a forum on mental health counseling worldwide. This gave me the opportunity to connect professionally and network with conference attendees from other Latin American institutions.

One unforgettable hands-on learning experience I had at NBCC was the master training workshop for the Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) program. As part of the MHF training, I learned how to teach basic skills that almost everybody can use to aid those who may not have access to professional mental health services.

During my time at NBCC, I touched some cutting-edge trends in the counseling profession, witnessed the challenges of devising the best possible ways to meet the needs of those we serve, and shared a vision for counseling worldwide. My deepest gratitude to NBCC's team members—you are making a difference in the world of professional counseling.

CCE UPDATE

CCE will soon introduce a new coaching certification. Although several organizations currently offer certifications for coaches, the new CCE credential is distinguished by a master's degree entry portal and is especially suited for former mental health clinicians whose career path has led to professional coaching. Additional portals likely will include a path for coaching professionals with other types of master's degrees as well as an entry point for individuals with bachelor's degrees. The coaching certification process will require completion of a specialized examination developed from the knowledge base and skill set central to the work of professional coaching and adherence to an ethical code established for the new credential. CCE expects to launch the grandparenting application as soon as early Fall 2010.

Over 2,000 human services professionals have applied for credentialing and will take the norming examination for the Human Services Board Certified Practitioner (HS-BCP). The exam will be administered from July 7 through September 30, 2010. Those who applied before December 1, 2009 will receive recognition as a Founding HS-BCP. The 2010 Standard HS-BCP Application Packet is available at www.cce-global.org/extras/cce-global/pdfs/hs-bcp application-standard.pdf.

The Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS) application is being updated with changes to the endorser forms which will clarify this aspect of the requirements. In addition, the ACS recertification guidelines are being revised to provide credential holders with more detailed descriptions of acceptable continuing education and documentation. When completed, these updates will be included in the information available at www.cce-global.org/credentials-offered/acs.

The Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF)

certification program is now active in Taiwan, which joins Bulgaria, Canada, China, Germany, Greece, Japan, Korea, Macedonia, New Zealand, Romania, Turkey and the United States on the list of those countries offering career development services tailored to the specific needs of their labor market. GCDF program development is currently under way in Portugal. NCCs are eligible to apply for GCDF certification upon completion of the 120-hour GCDF training program and verification of 1,400 career development related experience hours. The GCDF application is available at www.cce-global.org/credentialsoffered/gcdf-home. Information about the GCDF will be available at the National Career Development Association (NCDA) annual conference June 29 - July 2, 2010, in San Francisco, California, where CCE is exhibiting.

GCDF-Macedonia: Career development professionals play a very important role in helping students and other individuals enhance their employability skills, fulfill their potential and make better career decisions. Based on this fact, the **USAID Macedonia Competitiveness** Project, implemented by Carana Corporation, introduced the GCDF program in Macedonia to support crucial career development efforts. The initiative is implemented in collaboration with the Business Foundation for Education (BFE), a legacy organization of the USAIDfunded Labor Market Project in Bulgaria.

The GCDF training started in October 2009 and was completed in April 2010. This first generation includes 27 GCDFs and four master trainers. The trainees have extensive experience related to career development and come from various sectors, including

universities and vocational schools, municipalities, the private sector and training providers.

Future plans in Macedonia are related to promoting the GCDF program widely in the country and increasing the number of GCDFs, working with interested universities to introduce the GCDF program as part of their master or postgraduate studies, and facilitating the establishment of the Macedonian Association of Career Counsellors.

GCDF-Turkey: On May 8, 2010, the seminars "Making Career Decisions in the 21st Century: Simple Techniques for Complex Times" and "Grief and Loss Counseling" were presented at Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul. The one-day event was organized by Bahçeşehir University Continuing Education Center (BüSem) in collaboration with the Department of Counselor Education, Counseling Psychology, and Rehabilitation Services at Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Spencer G. Niles, who has extensive experience in career development and education, addressed the career challenges confronting workers today and offered simple and effective techniques GCDFs can use to help others manage their careers. Dr. Brandon Hunt, an expert in grief and loss counseling and an NBCC Board member, outlined common grief characteristics and behaviors, and ways to help those who are experiencing grief and loss.

For more information about CCE's programs and services, visit www.cce-global.org or call 336-482-2856.

NCC CORNER

Benefits of Holding the NCC Certification As NBCC continues to grow, we are also adding to the list of benefits that come with holding national certification, including low-cost liability insurance through NBCC and Lockton Affinity; a free six-month listing in *Psychology Today*'s Therapy Directory and access to CE credit for reading selected articles; a free listing (business name, city and telephone number) on CounselorFind through NBCC's Web site (www.nbcc.

org), where the public and employers can also verify your NCC certification through "Credential Verification" and you can access and update your own record through "MyNBCC." There's also a "Services for NCCs" section where you can print out documents for employers and insurance

Voluntary Audit

Pamela V. Balentine Escanaba, MI Marjorie L. Hendrickson Rhinebeck, NY Nancy Ann McCormack Throop, PA Penny S. Virchow Mitchell, SD

companies on why they should hire and reimburse NCCs. Additionally, NBCC has a lobbyist in Washington who is fighting every day for the rights of counselors in federal legislation.

How Has Your NCC Helped You? We're interested in hearing how the NCC certification has helped you in your career. If you'd like to share your story, e-mail editor@nbcc.org. Please limit your response to 500 words or less and include "How the NCC Has Helped Me" in the subject line.

How Many NCCs Are There Now? When NBCC moved to North Carolina from the DC area in 1992, there were 14,000 NCCs. We now have more than 45,000 NCCs in the U.S. and in more than 40 countries. The growth has been nothing short of phenomenal. We are proud of the professional accomplishments of our certificants and hope that all NCCs will proudly display their certificate alongside other professional and academic credentials. The wallet card and NCC car decal, both of which were included with your certificate, are also great tools for marketing your national certification and promoting your personal brand.

Providers Not Renewing

CE providers that did not renew their NBCC-approved status in 2009 are listed below. Providers interested in reinstating NBCC-approved CE provider status should e-mail recertification@nbcc.org. The 2010 annual updates and renewals were due April 30, 2010. Providers needing an extension to submit the 2010 update or renewal should contact NBCC at recertification@nbcc.org.

Family Services Assn, #6186

George Essif Jr., #6018

New York Institute for Cognitive and Behavioral Therapies, #6281

New York Psychosynthesis Institute, #5858

NEW PROVIDERS

January 2010 through May 2010

Aspira Continuing Education #6416 • Camarillo, CA

Association for Creativity in Counseling (ACC) #1028 • San Antonio, TX

Atlantic University #6434 • Virginia Beach, VA

Capital Area Intermediate Unit (CAIU) #6448 • Mechanicsburg, PA

Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) #6442 • North Bethesda, MD

Children's Aid Society #6459 • Homewood, AL

Colorado Christian University #4462 • Lakewood, CO

Devereux Arizona #6441 • Scottsdale, AZ

Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers #6461 • Allentown, PA

Edison Court, Inc. #6460 • Doylestown, PA

Hobbs Institute for Growth, LLC #6446 • Marietta, GA

Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) #6457 • Rockville, MD

JustCare/TN Voices for Children #6443 • Memphis, TN

Michigan Public Health Institute #6455 • Okemos, MI

Montgomery County Public Schools #6449 • Rockville, MD

Nova Southeastern University— Center for Psychological Studies #4548 • Ft Lauderdale, FL

Program of Religion/Spirituality and Mental Health #6447 • Chicago, IL

Quincy University—Counseling Department #4551 • Quincy, IL

SpeedyCeus.com #6412 • Chino Hills, CA

The Center for the Professional Development & Continuing Education for Counselors #6438 • West Chester, PA

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NCC PROFILE



Christopher Townsend

My name is Christopher Townsend and I am one of the proudest National Certified Counselors in the country. Why? Because NBCC and NBCC International (NBCC-I) provided this NCC the opportunity to respond to a mental health crisis in Liberia, West Africa. Here is my story:

After graduating from Appalachian State University in 1996 with bachelor's degree in psychology with an emphasis in child development, I was encouraged and inspired to pursue a graduate degree. I applied and was accepted into a summer program for minorities. I was paired with a professor to do research and to learn how to analyze data. Each student was prepared to take the GRE and was introduced to various graduate programs. It was at this time that counseling chose me. I immediately began my graduate course of study in agency counseling with emphases in substance abuse and multicultural counseling, and earned my master's in 1998. I became an NCC that same year.

My professional career began in 1997 with a paid internship as a substance abuse counselor working with adolescent and adult clients with dual disorders. As I progressed in my career, I worked as a child welfare social worker and as a senior practitioner with adolescents who were involved in the legal systems with substance abusing disorders. These positions lead me into leadership roles as coordinator, clinical director, and in 2004, to becoming owner of Essential Concepts Inc., which provides counseling services, training, consulting and clinical supervision.

In June 2009, I traveled to Liberia on a missions trip with The Joseph Alliance, an international missions organization. After witnessing and assessing the mental health needs in Liberia, I was compelled to respond. I recognized that I had a skill set that could benefit these people, who had suffered a 14-year civil war. But the task of developing a model to train professionals was daunting and overwhelming.



MHF participant and homeland missionary Albert Washington (center) with his brother (left) and Dr. LaVerne Hanes Stevens of The Joseph Alliance (right)

Upon my return home, I began to research opportunities. When I read about the Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) program in an NCC newsletter, it seemed like the answer I'd been looking for. I contacted NBCC-I to discuss my vision for Liberia and how I thought the MHF could benefit the country.



Mr. Townsend conducting an MHF training in Liberia

In January 2010, three of my colleagues (Dr. LaVerne Hanes Stevens, Rev. Gwendolyn Young and Dr. Sonja Frison) and I were trained as MHF master trainers at NBCC's headquarters in Greensboro, NC. NBCC-I coordinated with the Lott Carey Mission School in Liberia, The Joseph Alliance and Essential Concepts Inc., and in March 2010 the four of us, with the help of team members Charlotte Tipton, Dr. Tammy Cox and Veronica Hazel, were able to successfully train 60 professionals in Liberia in the MHF curriculum.

The people in Liberia were grateful for our presence and the gift of the MHF training. The MHF training will likely be the catalyst for further developments in counseling services for the Liberian people. A work group will be developed to consider next steps towards the strategic plan that was developed as a result of the MHF training.

This is an experience I will never forget in the realm of my spiritual life, professional life and my life as an African-American man going back to the homeland of his ancestors to bring an agent of healing.

NBCC and Psychology Today Collaborate

For the past few months, NBCC has been collaborating with *Psychology* Today to bring opportunities to NCCs through an online directory and a new way to earn continuing education credits. We are now well into our offerings with *Psychology Today* and have seen subscriptions to The Therapy Directory and the magazine climb steadily, indicating your interest in these amenities. Currently, more than 1,300 NCCs have taken advantage of the directory deal and 1,100 have subscribed to the magazine.

Therapy Directory Information

Time is running out, but you can still sign up to get your free six-month online profile in *Psychology Today*'s Therapy Directory (a \$180 value), which also includes a free subscription to Psychology Today magazine.

A profile in The Therapy Directory gets you:

- Referrals from *Psychology Today*;
- To the top of Google when potential clients search for a "therapist" in your area;
- Featured on WebMD and 20-plus partner sites;
- Accessibility to exchange tips, office space and referrals with therapists across the country; and
- A free subscription to *Psychology Today* magazine for as long as you remain in the directory.

Your online profile will be absolutely free for six months—compliments of NBCC. Your credit card information will be collected when you register but won't be charged. If you choose to remain in the directory, you will be charged \$29.95 per month beginning in the seventh month. You can cancel your profile at any time. This offer applies only to first-time members of The Therapy Directory.

Go to http://secure.sussexdirectories.com/therapist/nbcc.php to sign up or to learn more. Enter "NBCC" as the promotional code when prompted.

For sample Therapy Directory profiles of NCCs, follow these links: http://therapists.psychologytoday.com/rms/prof detail. php?profid=71053 http://therapists.psychologytoday.com/rms/prof detail. php?profid=70943

Psychology Today Magazine Information

If you're not interested in the directory but still want to obtain continuing education credits, you can subscribe to the magazine separately at a deep discount. Six issues (one year) cost only \$15.97. If you are not satisfied, simply cancel your subscription and receive a full refund. To subscribe go to http://secure.sussexdirectories.com/ therapist/nbcc-subscribe.php.

To receive continuing education credits for reading relevant articles, go to www.nbcc.org, click on the Psychology Today icon at the bottom of our home page and follow the directions.

Questions or comments? E-mail nbcc@nbcc.org.

NEW PROVIDERS

January 2010 through May 2010

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The Refuge-A Healing Place #6456 • Ocklawaha, FL

The ScreamFree Institute #6444 • Duluth, GA

The University of Alabama-Counselor Education Department #4549 • Tuscaloosa, AL

2 Steps Forward Training #6452 • Mercer Island, WA

University of San Diego -Counseling Program #4550 • San Diego, CA

Virtual Center of Excellence (VCE) #6439 • Southgate, MI

Professional Identity Award Presented to the University of North Carolina-Greensboro

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COUNSELOR

counseloreducators.

nbcc.org.

colleagues are working to create. The idea is to partner with a town, school system or mental health agency in another country, go there

> regularly and take the time to really build a relationship. "We don't want to do a one-shot, inand-out thing. We want to form a relationship," he explains. "This stipend would be perfect to fund students who would not have money to go, or to help supplement the cost for faculty and students going to set this up."

EDUCATORS Please note: The deadline for the National Certified Counselor-Counselor Educator application is July 31, 2010. For detailed information, visit http://

> For more information about award qualifications and a 2010 nomination form, go to www.nbcc.org/ counseloreducators.

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NBCC Foundation Military and Rural Scholarships Awarded

In March 2010, the NBCC Foundation (NBCCF) awarded 11 counseling students the Foundation's inaugural military and rural scholarships. Before establishing the scholarships, the NBCCF Board of Trustees evaluated the current needs of the profession and of society as a whole and identified these two specific populations as being in need of more professional counselors. The scholarships were designed to meet that need by encouraging students from rural and underserved areas, and service members and veterans to embark on a career in counseling. Going forward, NBCCF will continue to award scholarships and consider additional areas of need.

The scholarships were a success, with nearly 100 students from across the country applying for five military and five rural scholarships. The NBCCF Board of Trustees was so pleased with the response to these new scholarships and the overall qualifications of the applicants that an additional military scholarship was awarded.

Recipients of the rural scholarships are enrolled in counseling programs throughout the country—from Montana and Indiana to Pennsylvania and Tennessee. These dedicated individuals have demonstrated their commitment to the underserved by traveling as far as 300 miles one way to attend school so they can remain in their small rural communities. Nearly all of the recipients grew up in remote communities that lacked services and are committed to meeting that need in their hometowns or similar areas.

The military scholarship winners were equally impressive, having served in war zones and at military bases throughout the world. The recipients have all received commendations and awards for service and represent four of the five branches of the U.S. military, including the first female Puerto Rican pilot in the Army.

Five of each type of scholarship will be offered every year in the amount of \$3,000. Students interested in the 2010 scholarships are encouraged to access the Foundation Web site at www.nbccf.org.

NBCCF Rural Scholarship Recipients

Connie E. Carringer is a graduate of Guilford College and is enrolled in Appalachian State University's master's in clinical mental health counseling program. Possessing a passion for helping others and for the high country of North Carolina, Ms. Carringer has given her time and talents to organizations such as the Appalachian Heritage Council and the therapeutic art programs at the Swannanoa Correctional Institution and Express Yourself, and works as a counselor intern at Lees McRae College. She plans on serving the Watauga and surrounding counties upon graduation. To learn more about her, see page 14.

Dena M. Held is both student and graduate of Indiana State University where she is pursuing a master's of education in school counseling. Having grown up in rural southern Indiana, Ms. Held understands both the challenges and benefits of a rural community. She is an active member of the Knox County Child Protection Team and Knox County Early Intervention team, and is the Executive Director of the Knox County Court Appointment Special Advocate Program. As a school counselor, Ms. Held hopes to create a quality school culture where she can provide opportunities and address challenges for her students

Michelle R. Kolch is both a student and graduate of Slippery Rock University where she is pursuing a master's in community counseling. She is dedicated to her community and plans to provide services in the small town of Ellwood City or New Caster, PA, two areas deeply affected by steel mill closings in the 1980s. Ms. Kolch lives on the family farm where her grandmother was born, raising goats, rabbits and beef cattle. She strives to be an advocate and voice for others, and left the corporate life to become a counselor and give back to her community.

Alesha C. McCord is both a student and graduate of Middle Tennessee State University where she is pursuing a master's of education in mental health counseling. She has a passion for helping others and has worked as a case manager assisting adults with mental illness. Upon graduation, Ms. McCord wants to increase the quality of mental health care in her

rural Tennessee community through periodic needs assessments and the creation of a free referral and specialty services publication for agencies.

Kirsten A. Passmore is a graduate of the University of Mary and is enrolled in the University of Montana's master's in mental health counseling program, which she drives more than 320 miles to attend. As a native and resident of a small rural community, Ms. Passmore has seen firsthand the devastating effects of untreated mental illness. She has committed herself to helping her agriculturally dependent community, which has suffered under the current economic crisis and is recovering from three recent suicides. She also volunteers at a local counseling center, where she has the opportunity to serve not only her own community but the Blackfeet Indian Reservation as well. To learn more about her, see page 15.

NBCCF Military Scholarship Recipients

Louis M. Alvey is a graduate of Longwood University and is enrolled in Lynchburg College's master's of education in clinical mental health counseling program. While serving as a sergeant in Virginia's Army National Guard, he completed two combat tours in Iraq. Mr. Alvey now works as a peer specialist at Virginia's Wounded Warrior program, providing support and services to veterans and their families for stress-related problems and traumatic brain injuries. Upon graduation, he plans to continue helping veterans and their families as a counselor.

Marilyn M. Dykman is a graduate of the University of Puerto Rico and is pursuing a master's in counseling at the University of New Mexico. Finding great satisfaction in helping and training others to succeed, she excelled in the U.S. Coast Guard where she received a number of honors, such as the Woman in Aviation Award for heroism and courage. Ms. Dykman served as the first female Puerto Rican pilot in the U.S. Army and the first Hispanic pilot in the Coast Guard and is dedicated to women's empowerment issues. She plans on serving the military community and is currently working as a counselor-intraining at the University of New Mexico. To learn more about her, see page 14.

Alicia N. Higgins is a graduate of Old Dominion University and a student at Regent University pursuing a master's in community counseling. After enlisting in the Army National Guard, she was almost immediately deployed to Iraq where she worked as a congressional liaison, assisting with responses to inquiries from the U.S. Congress and the president. Currently, Ms. Higgins works in the Department of Veterans Affairs serving active duty members and their families. Upon graduation, she plans to continue serving this group as a licensed professional counselor.

John M. LaCreta is both a graduate and student of West Chester University where he is currently pursuing a master's of education in secondary school counseling. His life experience ingrained in him a commitment to helping others, which lead him to a career in counseling. As an officer in the U.S. Air Force, his opportunities to mentor young servicemembers confirmed that this was the right path. Mr. LaCreta is committed to giving back to the men and women in uniform and wants to do so through a counseling position in the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense.

Marlana J. Robertshaw is a graduate of Liberty University and is pursuing a master's in counseling at Youngstown State University. She spent 20 years in the U.S. Navy serving as a career counselor and certified Navy counselor. Her goal is to continue her counseling services and endeavors to pioneer a mental health and wellness program for veteran women in the Ohio Mahoning Valley and surrounding Appalachia areas.

Franklin A. Zepp

Franklin Zepp is a graduate of Excelsior College and a student at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor pursuing a master's in clinical mental health counseling. He served as a sergeant major and assistant chaplain in the U.S. Army and coordinated suicide intervention workshops throughout Iraq. Mr. Zepp continues to serve others as a family employment assistance counselor at the Texas Veterans' Commission and wants to help servicemembers, veterans and their families at Fort Hood in the Killeen area after graduation and licensure. To learn more about him, see page 15.

2009 NBCCF Scholarship Recipient Close-ups

Editor's Note: This is the first of a three-part series profiling the recipients of the 2009 NBCCF scholarships. Look for more in the next issues of The NCC.

Connie Carringer



After completing an internship at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC, Connie Carringer knew she wanted to work with adults through the arts. When she found the clinical mental health counseling program with a concentration and certificate in expressive arts therapy at Appalachian State University, she knew she was in the right place.

A leader in her local expressive arts therapy organization Orchesis and a board member for the International Expressive Arts Therapy Association (IEATA), Ms. Carringer is working to bring expressive arts therapy to more people in Watauga County, NC, and around the world. She has found therapeutic writing, movement therapy and visual arts techniques extremely helpful in her work with trauma survivors.

As the community services legal coordinator for OASIS, Inc, the domestic violence/rape crisis center in Watauga County, she is passionate about serving women and their children in this rural community and hopes to be a part of the solution for ending domestic violence and sexual assault

"I felt honored and grateful to receive this scholarship. It reminds me to take more time to notice all the amazing work of my fellow students and coworkers," says Ms. Carringer. "For me, the most important part of becoming a National Certified Counselor is the link it creates between me and counselors all over the country."

Marilyn Dykman



Helping others is a value that Marilyn Dykman learned from watching her father as he worked to put eight kids through college, even though he had only a ninth-grade education. A pilot in the United State Army and the United States Coast Guard, she is committed to helping military personnel returning from war. In 2007, after being retired from the U.S. Coast Guard for three and a half years, Ms. Dykman enrolled in the University of New Mexico's counseling graduate program. While there, she discovered the joy of working with elementary and high school students from diverse cultures. This led her to pursue a dual track degree in community and school counseling.

Since beginning her graduate program, Ms. Dykman has presented a proposal titled "The Silent Combat Wound: A Psychoeducational Group for Female Combat Veteran's Awareness of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder" at three events, including the 2010 American Counseling Association conference in Pittsburgh. The purpose of the presentation is to support and educate female

veterans about post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), coping and interpersonal interactions.

"Professionally, I have the responsibility to be the best I can be in order to help others. This scholarship will allow me to meet this goal," says Ms. Dykman. "Becoming a National Certified Counselor will allow me to work with people who are suffering from a wide variety of conditions ranging from career and stress management issues to more serious conditions like suicidal depression and PTSD."

continued on page 15

2009 NBCCF Scholarship Recipient Close-ups

continued from page 14

Kirsten Passmore



"I was thrilled to be a recipient of the NBCCF Rural Scholarship not only because of the financial benefit it provided for me, but more importantly because it recognizes the necessity of providing mental health care in rural settings," says Kirsten Passmore.

Growing up in a rural community, Ms. Passmore witnessed firsthand the lack of mental health resources available to individuals and families. As an undergrad, courses in psychology, biology and philosophy guided her toward graduate studies in counseling. When she began graduate school at the University of Montana, she knew she'd found her professional calling.

Her long-term goals include increasing access to mental health resources in rural communities, helping to diminish the stigma associated with mental illness and counseling, aiding in the continued growth of counseling as a global profession, and supporting others pursuing counseling careers.

"Becoming a National Certified Counselor will be gratifying on numerous levels,"

says Ms. Passmore. "Professionally, it will represent recognition among other skilled clinicians."



Franklin Zepp

After serving 22 years as a chaplain assistant in the U.S. Army providing for the pastoral care of soldiers and their families, Franklin Zepp decided to pursue a career in counseling.

"Although the Army has many programs to aid the soldier and their families, there is still the stigma of

seeking help. I want to do what I can to eliminate that stigma and provide the care and therapy that this population needs," says Mr. Zepp.

In the short term, he would like to begin serving the military community in dealing with issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), transitioning from military to civilian life and coping with the day-to-day routine of the military. Mr. Zepp also plans to establish contacts and network/partner with existing agencies on Fort Hood in order to serve the current active duty population.

Being selected for the scholarship was an unexpected honor for Mr. Zepp. He looks forward to becoming a National Certified Counselor, which in his words will add "credibility to my professional status as a counselor. Having NBCC as a resource for networking and professional development can only enable me to be a better counselor for my clients." He is also hopeful that the certification will enable him to "break through to the military and serve as an LPC."

New Board Member for NBCCF

The Foundation's Board of Directors has elected Sherry Allen to serve a two-year term on the NBCCF Board.

Ms. Allen is president and CEO of the Southeastern Network of Youth and Family Services in Bonita Springs, Florida. In this role she is actively involved in fund development, program development, administration, human resource management, and she interacts with the Board of Directors and member agencies throughout the country. She has a private practice, is a consultant and works as a trainer

Prior to earning her master's in human development counseling at Vanderbilt University, Ms. Allen earned a bachelor's in mathematics with a minor in physics, and secondary education certification. She also holds the certified clinical mental health counselor (CCMHC) specialty credential.

NBCC would like to thank the following individuals for generously supporting the NBCC Foundation through honorary donations.

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My 70th birthday

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NBCC GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Continued from page 2

but because the committee included bullet point criteria, it has also created a political challenge.

At this time, the House bill does not contain the IOM bullet point criteria and the Senate bill does. However, it is important for counselors to support both bills. S. 3371 is the only language that will pass the Senate. The sponsors of S. 3371, Sens. Lieberman, McCaskill and Collins, do not believe the criteria are necessary but included them to gain the support of the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC). SASC support is required if we want to include our language in the Senate National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which is the only realistic path for final passage of this legislation.

Including language in both the House and Senate NDAA bills provides the best likelihood for final removal of the referral and supervision requirements. If successful, we can seek to adopt the House language in the conference where they reconcile the differences between the two bills. In that conference, NBCC will continue to push for the least restrictive language, as will our House and Senate sponsors. However, to get to that point, we must build support for both bills and get them included in the NDAA.

There has been a lot of confusion over the status of the TRICARE legislation, and it is important to understand that the process is constantly changing and no final legislation has been approved. Consequently, there is no way for NBCC to presently provide any clarification as to how the law will be interpreted. We do not know what is going to be in the final bill, and even after it passes (if it passes), it will be up to the Defense Department to develop regulations interpreting the law. Without a law and regulations, we do not know if it would include grandparenting or exceptions to exams or accreditation. Even if the Senate language is adopted, counselors who do not meet the IOM criteria should be able to provide services under the referral and supervision requirements. In other words, the bill would add an option and not close any doors that are currently open. Regardless, we can assure you that NBCC will continue to work to include the broadest pool of professional counselors in the final legislation.

Veterans



Implementation of the law making counselors eligible for employment in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is reportedly on track for completion in September 2010. While no official documentation has been provided, VA staff has indicated that the internal subject matter expert workgroup has completed its first draft of the qualification standards and it is being reviewed internally. There are multiple stages in the review process, including negotiations with the unions. It has

also been reported that the draft standards allow for independent practice on par with other master's-level mental health professionals. It is impossible to confirm the accuracy of these reports without written documentation, but NBCC remains cautiously optimistic.