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A Message from 2015-2017 Student Representative, Annemarie Connor

Fall 2014 Keynote Speaker Biography

Commissioner LaBreck

Fall 2014 Invited Speaker Biography
Officers, Regional Representatives, Council, & Committee Members

More detailed information for the Board can be found on our website (ncre.org).

Board Members

President – J. Chad Duncan
1st Vice President – Noel Estrada Hernandez
2nd Vice President – Michael Accordino
Past President – Maureen McGuire-Kuletz

Region I – Charles Bernacchio
Region II – John Keegan
Region III – Carolyn Hawley
Region IV – Brenda Cartwright
Region V – Eun-Jeong Lee
Region VI – Denise Catalano
Region VII – Matt Bruinkool
Region VIII – Jill Bezyak
Region IX – Aisha Shamburger Rousseau
Region X – Elizabeth Boland
International Representative – Alan Bruce
Student Representative – Annemarie Connor
Councils

More detailed information about the Councils can be found on our website (ncre.org).

Council on Distance Learning

Chair: Jewel Jones

Co-Chair: Matthew Sprong

Council on Diversity & Equity

Chair: Brenda Y Cartwright

Co-Chair: James Stewart

Council on Psychosocial Adaptation Research

Chair: Malachy Bishop

Co-Chair: Denise Catalano

Council on Psychiatric Rehabilitation

Chair: Chandra Donnell

Co-Chair: Lynn Koch

Council on Rehabilitation Disability Studies

Chair: Brandi Darensbourg

Co-Chair: Gina Oswald

Committee Members

CORE – Lori Bruch, Charles Edmund Degeneefee, & Thomas Shefcik

Newsletter Forum – Administrative Office

Research Committee – Edward Maniybe

Awards Committee – Lori Bruch (until April 2015). Currently vacant.

Rehabilitation Research, Policy, and Education – Editor, David Strauser
A Message from the NCRE President

Dear Colleagues and Friends of NCRE,

Beyond my expectations! This is how I describe the NCRE Spring 2015 conference held in Newport Beach, CA, April 22-24. I would be remiss if I did not first acknowledge Dr. Bobbie Atkins and Dr. Margaret Glenn. As I had stated in my President’s letter, these two women and their messages will set the tone for the rest of the conference. They did just that, it was a moving, energetic and empowering tone. As president and as an individual member of NCRE, I could have ended the conference after the opening and gone home happy.

This past year has been tough and a blur. We as an organization lost two special people one new to NCRE and one well known within NCRE. Both Dr. Dotson and Dr. Downey had huge hearts, were student driven, altruistic and great colleagues and friends. They both will be dearly missed. Their traits embody NCRE.

We have some challenges ahead in the world of rehabilitation, especially with Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) in WIOA. With this great challenge we have the ability to mold the future and protect not only our profession but also the people we serve. As past-president Jared Schultz stated “we are in the midst of the struggle to understand our own identities, abilities, and potentials as a field”. With this challenge I believe as NCRE, we will be able to come together and address these issues. I can honestly say that I have faith in our future because of all the people I met and interacted with during the conference. The students and the energy they brought to the conference blew me away. We as NCRE are truly lucky to have so many new professionals coming up the ranks.

As President I wanted to broaden your experience at the conference by featuring IARP. This coming Fall 2015 conference “Carousel of Change: Redefining Rehabilitation through Innovation and Outcomes” we will be featuring for the first time the Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR). By being more inclusive it opens more doors for not only us but for the organizations coming in. I hope each and every one can come to Washington, DC from October 18-20, 2015 and be a part of another great conference.

As Garrison Keillor might say if he were an NCRE member, “Well, that's the news from NCRE, where all the members are strong, all the board members are good looking, and all the students are above average."

Regards,

J. Chad Duncan, Ph.D., CRC, CPO  
President, National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE)
Past President’s Report

In serving in the capacity of the Past President of the NCRE, the two items that I will address are the 2015 NCRE Spring Elections and the 2015 NCRE/RSA/CSAVR pre-conference Legislative Update.

NCRE 2015 Elections: The spring election voting begins on May 11 and closed on June 9. Vacant positions include the 2nd VP, and Region Representative for 2, 5 and 8.

Executive Board (November 2014 – October 2015)

President: J. Chad Duncan, (Alabama State University)
First Vice-President: Noel Estrada-Hernandez (The University of Iowa)
2nd Vice-President: Michael Accordino (Springfield College)
Past President: Maureen McGuire-Kuletz (The George Washington University)

I would like to thank all NCRE individual members of the current September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2015 membership year that participated in the 2015 spring elections and to report the election results.

Following the conclusion of the upcoming NCRE/RSA/CSAVR Fall 2015 conference in Washington, DC the following selectees will take their seat on the board:

- Denise Catalano from University of North Texas will be the next 2nd Vice President.
- Chia-Chiang Wang from the University at Buffalo, SUNY will be the new Region 2 Representative.
- Gloria K. Lee from Michigan State University will be the new Region 5 Representative.
- Kathleen (Kat) Oertle from Utah State University will be new the Region 8 Representative.

I would like to thank all current NCRE Board members for their service. In addition, a special thanks to all of the candidates who ran for board positions. Your willingness to step up and serve NCRE and the Rehabilitation Counseling profession is greatly appreciated.

The NCRE ad-hoc legislative committee will hold a pre-conference Legislative Update. The session will be held on Sunday, October 18 and will focus on issues such as the CORE/CACREP affiliation; CRCC responses to issues impacting the profession; and WIOA.

Respectfully,

Maureen McGuire-Kuletz, Ed.D., CRC
Past President, National Council on Rehabilitation Education
Greetings Colleagues,

I hope you are enjoying your summer break!

Welcome to our year in review newsletter. We have an exciting year lined up. We are thrilled with our progress and are ready to spread the word about everything that’s going on. In the coming months we will reach out to our institutional members regarding changes for the newsletter and find the best way to share program updates.

New Website

On July 13, 2015 we launched our new website! Our goal is to provide a richer user experience with more features and individual choices.

The new website’s features are too numerous to include. If you have not taken the time to peruse website in a while, we encourage you to do that now and save this Newsletter for later! Also, look for new features in the coming months.

Now that you’re back, one upcoming feature I am excited about is the “MyNCRE Login” system. Members can create a secure member profile listing, which will allow you access to additional features through the member’s only section.

MyNCRE login features include:

- Upload and share files.
- Create your own professional network to share your own expertise.
- Use NCRE community to start conversations around specific projects, interests, or particular groups.
- Access specialized tools to update your skills and keep your career moving forward.
- Add Resume/CV.
- Log in to read and download new issues of the journal and access all issues published from 2006.
- Create and or join interest specific forums.

More details will be shared on September 1st, so please stay tuned!

NCRE is dedicated to accessibility. The new website was developed and tested to be in compliance with the following accessibility guidelines: Section 508 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act and Priority 1 of the World Wide Web Consortium Web Accessibility Initiative (W3C WAI).

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Scott Kupferman, who was the NCRE Webmaster and created the first redesign of the website in 2010 and then the refresh design in February 2012. His thoughtful attention to detail, expertise regarding web accessibility and exceptional eye for “clean” web design helped to inspire me as I worked on the new site.

I hope that you enjoy discovering the new website and that you find it easy to navigate and pleasant to use. If you have any questions, comments or suggestion please send them to info@ncre.org.
Job Board

The NCRE website is the primary source for reaching rehabilitation educators. Our website receives over 20,000 visits per year from 96 countries and territories and 52 states/regions within the United States. Currently we have 6 job postings. Please make sure to check each announcement as the deadline dates vary.

You can access the job board in two ways:

NCRE homepage at this link [http://www.ncre.org](http://www.ncre.org) please scroll to the middle of the page and on the right sidebar you will find “Job Postings” located at this link: or click on the Job board tab also located on the homepage.

If you are interested in posting a job or a job seeker please contact the administrative office for more details at info@ncre.org.

Membership

NCRE realizes that when students graduate, it can take time to establish themselves financially. In recognition of this, starting with the September 1, 2015 – July 1, 2016 membership year we will offer a 2-year pricing structure for our “New Career Member” membership category.

Once a student graduates, they are eligible to maintain membership as a New Career Member for two years. Any individual who has an interest in rehabilitation education and is no more than two years post-graduation from a doctoral or masters-level degree is eligible to become a New Career Member. Additionally, postdoctoral fellows are also eligible to maintain membership as a New Career member for two years if they join during their fellowship. More details will be shared on September 1.

Research Committee

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lynn Koch, Ph.D., CRC, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville who served as the Chair of this committee for 12 years.

The new Chair is Edward Maniybe, Ph.D., CRC, Langston University.

Awards Committee

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lori Bruch, Ph.D., CRC, University of Scranton who served as the Chair of this committee for 12 years.

At this time we are searching for a new Chair for the Award Committee.

On behalf of NCRE I want to thank Lynn and Lori for their Exemplary Diligence and Fortitude in Promoting Rehabilitation Research, Education, and Service.

NCRE/RSA/CSAVR Fall 2014 Conference

Our National Training Conference on Rehabilitation Education solicited papers consistent with a timely and critical theme: “Back to the Future: “Embracing the Journey”. The conference was held in Arlington, VA from November 2-4, 2014.

Our Keynote Speaker was The Honorable Janet LaBreck, Commissioner Designate Rehabilitation Services Administration, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education. Her topic of discussion was “The Future of VR”.

Our Invited Speaker was Alan Bruce, CEO & Director of Universal Learning Systems. Alan’s topic was on “Global Challenge, International Opportunity Rehabilitation, Quality, Inclusion and Innovation in an Emerging Europe Issues and Partnerships in a Changing World”.

Our Invited Speaker for the Awards Luncheon was Jack Kammerer, Director, Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) Service. He discussed “Shaping the VR&E of the Future: Present to Future Population, Performance Measures, and Service Delivery and Quality”.

The recipient of the 6th Annual NCRE President’s Award is The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). NCRE and The Council on Diversity and Equity (CODE) would like to congratulate Melissa Scroggins, from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, on being selected as the recipient for the Dr. Ted Daniels’ Scholarship. Ms. Rita Daniels was in attendance to present Melissa with her award.

I would like to take this opportunity to once thank everyone who contributed to the preparation of the Fall 2014 conference: The Proposal Review Team, Lead Reviewer, The Awards Committee, Scott Kupferman for creating this year’s cover for the conference program booklet, volunteer program for assisting the Administrative Office to provide support to our attendees, our Sponsors & Exhibitors.

Student Representative Election

We had 7 doctoral student’s running to be the next Student Representative on the Board of Directors for the April 2015 - April 2017 term.

Voting opened on December 11, 2014 and closed on January 13, 2015. Per the NCRE Bylaws, The Student Representative on the Board of Directors shall be elected by a majority vote of individuals who are Student Members of NCRE.

No candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, and therefore a second election was held between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes. The runoff election will begin on Monday, February 2, 2015 and closed on Tuesday, March 3, 2015. I would like to thank all the student members of the current September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2015 membership year that participated in the student elections.

Congratulations to Annemarie Connor from Michigan State University on being elected as the new student representative. Annemarie will officially take her seat on the Board of Directors at the conclusion of the Spring 201 conference in April.

The role of the student representative changed largely due to Trent Landon’s leadership. I thank Trent for his dedication, innovation and hard work the past two years.

A special thank you to all of the student candidates who ran for this position. Your willingness to serve NCRE and the Rehabilitation Counseling profession is greatly appreciated.

15th Annual Spring Conference

Our National Rehabilitation Educators Conference solicited papers consistent with a timely and critical theme: “Broadening Our Horizon Through Collaboration: Opening the Box and Talking”.

The conference was held in Newport Beach, California, April 22-24, 2015.
This conference we wanted to broaden our attendee’s exposure to private rehabilitation and we featured the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (IARP) who had 6 special sessions. We had 415 attendees from all points of the U.S. to include international presence from Sydney, Japan, Taiwan, China and Canada.

We had 184 students and of this 100 were Master’s levels students in attendance. We had our 3rd Annual Master’s Level Student Recruitment Fair with VR recruiters from California Department of Rehabilitation Anaheim Branch, Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Nevada Vocational Rehabilitation, Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and South Carolina Commission for the Blind. We are pleased to see so many students participating at all levels.

Our keynote speaker was Dr. Bobbie J. Atkins, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus at San Diego State University. Dr. Atkins keynote address “Who YOU are Makes a Difference: Leadership and Collaboration (MY VOICE)” invited the attendees to take a careful look at who we are as individuals and as a profession and the challenges required with having open and honest self-examination and the same for our university, agency, philosophy, teaching pedagogy, research, and partnerships.

Our invited speaker was Dr. Margaret Glenn, Ed.D., CRC, at West Virginia University. Margaret’s topic was “A Healing State of Mind” and she provided an innovative introduction to mindfulness and the importance of “self-care.”

I would like to take this opportunity to once thank everyone who contributed to the preparation of the Spring 2015 conference: The Proposal Review Team, Lead Review Proposal Team, The Awards Committee, Scott Kupferman for creating this year’s cover for the conference program booklet, Student Leaders selected through the Student Volunteer program for assisting the Administrative Office and to provide support to our attendees, our Sponsors & Exhibitors and Silent Auction Donors who helped to raise money for the Ted Daniels’ Scholarship Fund.

We had our 3rd Annual Ted Daniel’s Silent Auction and would like to thank everyone who donated items and our winning recipients for their gracious support. We look forward to announcing the Ted Daniels’ Scholarship at the end of July 2015.

Save the Dates!

NCRE/RSA/CSAVR Fall 2015 Conference

The Fall 2015 conference will be held in Arlington, VA on Sunday, October 18-20, 2015 at Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel. Conference registration, and hotel reservations will be announced by the end of July 2015. The Fall 2015 conference begins with a membership year. NCRE members for the August 1, 2015 – June 3, 2016 year will receive reduced rates for registration. Nomination and application process for the 7th Annual NCRE President’s Award for Excellence in Vocational Rehabilitation will be announced by August 1, 2015.

NCRE Spring 2016 Conference

The Spring 2016 conference will be held in Newport Beach, CA on Wednesday April 20-22 2016 at Newport Beach Marriott Hotel and Spa. Call for Proposal’s to will be announced by August 5, 2015. Conference registration, and hotel reservations will be announced by mid-December 2015. Nomination and application process for the 16th Annual Spring Awards for will be announced mid-September 2015.

I appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve you as the Executive Director and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

NCRE Administrative Office
A Message from the Editor

Rehabilitation Research, Policy and Education

Journal Activities 2014-2015

This past year Vol. 28 (1-4)(2014), and Vol. 29 (1&2) (2015) have been produced in accordance with the production schedule established by Springer. For Volume 28 (1-4) the journal had three regular issues and one special issue on employment edited by Susanne Bruyere. In 2015, Volume 29, Issue 2 will be a special issue devoted to Multiple Sclerosis edited by Phil Rumrill.

Since 2012 the journal has seen a steady increase both in manuscript volume and quality. I am pleased to report that over this past year, due to an increased number of submissions resulting in a corresponding increase of accepted manuscripts, I have been able to steadily increase the number of manuscripts per issue to meet this critical benchmark starting with Vol.28 (2).

At the time of this report, I am able to report that we have over 20 manuscripts that have been accepted and waiting to be published. This does not include any manuscripts for special issues. As a result, the journal has achieved another critical benchmark by having at least three issues, of at least six manuscripts, ready for publication. This is an important benchmark in that it allows the journal to meet the rigorous production schedule established by Springer and be more selective, which increases the overall prestige and visibility of the journal. It is important to note that in addition to achieving a critical mass of manuscripts, the journal is able to ensure accepted authors a timely publication with no author having to wait more than two issues prior to publication.

1) Since January 2014 the Journal had 78 manuscripts submitted to Vol. 28., an increase over the 2013, Vol. 27. Total of 57 reflecting an increase of 21 manuscripts. When compared to the 2012 total of 19 manuscripts, it reflects an annual increase of 59 manuscripts. Of the 78 manuscripts submitted, I accepted 31 for publication. The initial rejection rate for Vol. 28 was 66%, which is identical to Vol. 27. The increase in manuscript submission for Vol. 28. is a good sign that individuals are considering the journal as a viable option as an outlet for their research.

2) A majority of the articles published in Vol. 28 were empirical research based articles reflecting an increasing diverse range of topics relevant to rehabilitation. The research focus and diversity of topics is good for the external perception of the journal and increasing the overall impact of the journal.

3) As indicated in point number one, due the number of manuscripts accepted the journal should be able to make the production goals for Vol. 29.

4) The editorial board is sound and been very productive. The turnaround time for manuscript review has been under 60 days outside of few exceptions that exceeded 60 days. On those occasions I have asked for additional reviews that extended the time of review. I have also added and continue to expand a pool of editorial consultants to reflect the expanding scope of the journal.

Overall, the health of journal has improved significantly since the end of 2010. The Journal has achieved a steady stream of manuscript submissions that will allow the journal to meet the production schedule established by Springer Publishing Company.
I am pleased to say as the Editor that the Journal has achieved a state of stability that will provide a platform for increasing national and international visibility.

It has been a pleasure to serve as editor of the Journal.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Strauser, Ph.D, Editor

Editor-Rehabilitation Research, Policy and Education
NCRE was featured in the Spring 2015 Newsletter of the Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Issues in Counseling (ALGBTIC), A Division of the American Counseling Association (ACA)

Submitted by: Robert (Rob) L Stevens, MS, LPC-CR, CRC, CDCA, Doctoral Student at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio

The National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE) 15th Annual Spring 2015 conference was held April 22-24, 2015 at the Marriott Newport Beach Hotel & Spa in Newport Beach, California. I was happy to see that the conference lived up to its theme these year which was entitled “Broadening Our Horizon through Collaboration: Opening the Box and Talking” by offering several LGBT themed and/or related education and poster sessions. I was fortunate enough to attend a few of the sessions while at the conference.

The first educational session that I attended was entitled “Rehabilitation Counseling with LGBQ Persons Living with Chronic Illness/Disability” which was presented by Franco Dispenza, PhD from Georgia State University. It was very interesting to hear about his research with this population since my own research interests are related. The audience asked a lot of questions and Dr. Dispenza almost did not have enough time in one hour to cover all of the material that he wanted to present.

The second educational session that I attended was presented by Dr. Jonathan Procter & Dr. Mona Robinson and was entitled “Religious Fundamentalism: How Does It Impact Counselor Trainee’s Attitudes toward Sexual Minorities?” This was also a very informative session. Again the audience had a lot of questions and the presenters did not have enough time to go through all of the information that Dr. Proctor had found during his dissertation research.

Other educational sessions at the conference that were focused on LGBT issues were titles such as: “Counseling & Employment Considerations for an Inclusive LGBT Workforce: Applying ALGBTIC Competencies”, “Vocational Rehabilitation Considerations for LGBT Clients with HIV/AIDS” and a poster presentations on LGBT issues were as follows: “Relationship between Types of Support and Employment among People Living with HIV/AIDS”.

It is great to see that the leadership of NCRE is ensuring that rehabilitation counseling students, professionals, and educators are given opportunities to learn and discuss issues that clients who identify as LGBT may face. It is my hope that NCRE will continue to provide educational sessions on LGBT, sexuality, and disabilities. I look forward to NCRE in 2016.
Council Reports

Council on Distance Education

Spring 2015 Conference Meeting - Newport Beach, CA

Chair: Jewel Jones, University of Maine Farmington

Co-Chair: Matthew Sprong, Montana State University-Billings

Meeting held and reported by: Dr. Jones and Dr. Sprong

The Council of Distance Education held a meeting on April 23, 2015 and consisted of nine NCRE members (faculty and students). This was our first meeting held as the newly elected co-chairs and the purpose of the meeting was to provide an introduction and a background related to distance education and to share our vision of the direction we plan to take this council. The council meeting started with each audience member providing a brief introduction and describing why they were in attendance and their goals.

We discussed the misconceptions related to distance education and various meanings including hybrid courses. Shortly thereafter, we shared with the audience that we were developing a survey to evaluate (1) how counselor education programs are offering their courses, face-to-face, online, hybrid, or combination, (2) faculty-related training on distance education, (3) delivery methods when programs use distance education components, and (4) attitudes towards distance education.

The Chair, Jewel Jones, shared the various platforms that can be used within distance education courses and demonstrated how to use Google Community features. Audience members shared their program’s use of technology in the classroom, such as using avatars in clinical training seminars to increase the likelihood that students will become comfortable in the counseling session and attempt to try new techniques.

Current Activities Underway:

- Develop and share best practices and pedagogical techniques with council members.
- Share survey with select members to improve the quality and rigor of the questions.
- Incorporate NCRE and CORE in the distribution of the distance education survey.
- Update the council’s mission statement as needed.
Council on Diversity & Equity Report

Spring 2015 Conference Meeting - Newport Beach, CA

Chair: Brenda Cartwright, Ed.D., CRC, Winston Salem State University

Co-Chair: James Stewart, Ph.D., CRC, Coppin State University

Meeting was held and reported by: Dr. Cartwright and Dr. Stewart

The Council recommended that the following statement be included in future NCRE Call for Proposals:

All proposals must address issues of inclusion, equity, and social justice (i.e., these issues must include, but not be limited to the intersection of disability, and/or race/ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religious/spiritual and language differences).

Council members were encouraged to volunteer to review proposals. The Council will continue to address how to convince CRCC to include CEU requirements in the area of multiculturalism for certification renewal. It is recommended that Council meetings be spread out so that members can participate in all meetings, and not have to choose one. Also, offer lunch so members do not have to choose between eating and participating in council meetings. Council members were reminded to put concerns in their conference evaluations.
Council on Psychiatric Rehabilitation

Fall 2014 Conference Meeting - Arlington, VA

**Chair:** Dr. Chandra Carey, University of North Texas

**Co-Chair:** Dr. Lynn Koch, University of Arkansas

**Meeting held and reported by:** Dr. Koch

The current focus of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Council is on developing a special issue of *Rehabilitation Research, Policy, and Education*. The special issue will be co-edited by Lynn Koch, Chandra Carey, and Stephanie Lusk. It will explore the application of evidenced-based, recovery-oriented principles and practices in psychiatric rehabilitation (PSR) to rehabilitation research, policy, and education. The goal of this special issue is to stimulate thinking and discussion about how we can educate students, conduct research, and implement rehabilitation policy and practices in PSR to better respond to the multi-faceted needs of the growing population of individuals with psychiatric disabilities being served across rehabilitation settings. Our hope is that this special issue will advance attitudes and practices that embolden rehabilitation consumers with psychiatric disabilities to effectively manage their illnesses, combat societal stigma, and realize their self-determined recovery goals.

The deadline for submitting articles to be considered for publication in the special issue is November 30, 2014. We have had numerous members of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Council as well as other experts in the area of psychiatric rehabilitation agree to submit manuscripts on a variety of important topics. The articles contained in the issue will examine current perspectives on PSR, highlight research on the effects of PSR instruction on rehabilitation student learning outcomes, explore the needs of special populations in PSR, and review evidenced-based practices. We plan to submit the completed special issue to David Strauser, editor of *Rehabilitation Research, Policy, and Education* by March 1, 2014.
Council on Psychosocial Adaptation Research (CPAR)

Spring 2015 Meeting - Newport Beach, CA

Chair: Dr. Malachy Bishop, University of Kentucky

Co-Chair: Dr. Denise Catalano, University of North Texas

Meeting held and reported by: Dr. Bishop and Dr. Catalano

The initial meeting of the NCRE Council on Psychosocial Adaptation Research has 22 members in attendance.

Malachy Bishop and Denise Catalano provided a welcome, brief introductions, and an agenda for the meeting. Bishop and Catalano then presented the Council’s purpose and mission and reviewed the bylaws as approved by the NCRE Board, addressing membership, structure, leadership, meetings, and activities.

After a brief history of the Council’s development, the charter members of the Council were identified as being: Denise Catalano, Malachy Bishop, Chad Duncan, Brian Phillips, Michael Frain, Allison Fleming, Dent Gitchel, Timothy Tansey, Hanoch Livneh, and Tina Anctil.

Michael Frain nominated Bishop and Catalano to serve as Chair and Co-Chair for a 3 year and 2-year term, respectively, (in accordance with the CPAR bylaws). Fleming seconded. All members in attendance (quorum) voted, with unanimous approval.

Bishop and Catalano then asked attending members to share their goals and interests for the group and to ask questions.

The following key goals consistent with the Council’s mission were discussed:

**Goal: Communication facilitation.**

The members discussed how members of the Council could best communicate in order to collaborate and share funding opportunities. Suggestions included Google products (e.g., Google doc), email distribution list, development of the CPAR website hosted by NCRE, a newsletter, or the RSA Scholars platform (Tansey). Council may need to develop a sub-committee to look at this issue, as it is high priority.

Council members discussed potential to create profiles for members as part of the website update or platform for this group. May include a bio, research interests, and contact information.

**Goal: Research digest, special issue in a journal, or even as a long-term goal, develop a new journal.**

For a possible research digest (assembled quarterly for example), members could submit summaries of Psychosocial Adaptation (PA) research from other disciplines (according to a specific format), to share with the membership. This would also serve to create potential publishing or service opportunities for members (writing/serving on the editorial board).

Also possibly approach NCRE journal (RRPE) about a special issue regarding psychosocial adaptation research. Possible topics include defining our current status on models, theories, social and cultural influences of adaptation. Conferring on conceptual definitions, measurement issues with the goal of reaching some consensus. What are the most important questions for researchers to address?
Continue to promote PAR as a conference track for NCRE conferences, and participate with panel presentations. Develop a “Chair’s Invited Lecture” series to occur at the Spring meeting, with invited speakers to CPAR meetings. Continue to expand presence at this conference.

**Goal: Provide mentoring to new PA researchers.**

Members discussed the goal of providing a community to get input, identify funding sources, and find collaborations. For experienced researchers, may be able to get in contact with students who would like to be involved in projects and vice-versa (fills a need for both parties). A more formal mentoring process TBA.

**Other Goals:**

- Forward progress on positive psychology constructs and understanding the relationship to PA. For example—hope, resilience, compassion, self-compassion, positive strategies.
- Explore and differentiate the PA experience for individuals in specific populations (e.g., veterans).
- Explore and address policies/services — and the lack of consideration of PA at present. How can research we do influence policies and services? Can we link addressing adaptation to more successful outcomes? Include cultural implications of addressing PA.
Council on Rehabilitation Disability Studies

Fall 2014 Conference Meeting - Arlington, VA

Chair: Brandi L Darenbourg, Ph.D., CRC, University of North Texas

Co-Chair: Rebecca S. Curtis, Ph.D., CRC, Auburn University (not in attendance)

Meeting held and reported by: Dr. Darenbourg

The meeting took place on Wednesday, November 5 at 3pm and was attended by 6 people. During the meeting, the council focused on accreditation and curriculum needs at the undergraduate level. Many participants worked in programs that were currently accredited at the undergraduate level, so they shared their experiences with the group. Additionally, participants discussed the need for an expansion in textbooks to teach topics more relevant to bachelor level practitioners. Participants also discussed the need for a code of ethics to guide practitioners at the undergraduate level.

There was discussion on previous work that had occurred in the area of ethical practices for undergraduate students and the need to continue this progress to develop an acceptable code. The participants acknowledged the low rate of participation at this council meeting, and suggestions were presented to increase the participation. One of these suggestions was to have a session at the NCRE Spring 2015 conference where more people could comment on the state of undergraduate rehabilitation education. Another suggestion was made to have a summer meeting of the council to further address the needs at the undergraduate level. Finally, Darenbourg inquired about anyone wanting to co-chair the council, as Curtis, stepped down from her position as co-chair. Gina Oswald, from Wright State University stated she was interested, and was appointed as the new co-chair of the council.

Spring 2015 Conference Meeting - Newport Beach, CA

Chair: Brandi L Darenbourg, Ph.D., CRC, University of North Texas

Co-Chair: Gina Oswald, Ph.D., CRC, and Wright State University

Meeting held and reported by: Dr. Oswald

Update on CRDS and CORE
Dr. Oswald reported her efforts to locate or create a listserv with the help of the administrative office. Dr. Oswald also reported her efforts to locate information on the approval of undergraduate ethical guidelines, which Dr. Willmering reported that the ethics have not been approved to date. No CORE rep was present although it was discussed that CORE no longer has separate undergraduate and graduate commissions. There is now only one that will handle both graduate and undergraduate issues, standards and accreditation information.

Update from Members
Members reported on accreditation and reaccreditation activities.

Issues from Educators
The issue of developing Professional Identity at the undergraduate level was discussed extensively. The issue appears to focus on the fact that the undergraduate students do not have: specific ethical guidelines, credentialing, strong national organization support and interest, or a unified position title. The CRDS members in attendance agreed that the following year’s efforts should focus on the issue of Professional Identity, as it is the cornerstone for undergraduate students and program strength. There was a motion for two sub-committees to be developed with two specific goals.
**Research Subcommittee on Undergraduate Professionalization**

Activities of the CRDS Research Subcommittee will include:

- Determine 5-6 research topics/projects related to undergraduate Professionalism based on a review of current literature/research and issues and seek NCRE support for research topics and potentially a special issue in the journal.
Research Committee Report

Chair: Lynn Koch, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville

NCRE Research Committee:

- Chen Ping Lin, National Kaohsiung Normal University of Taiwan
- Liza Conyers, Pennsylvania State University
- Jared Schultz, Utah State University
- Kenneth Hergenrather, George Washington University

The Research Committee approved three proposals between Fall 2014 to Spring 2015 and we strongly encourage NCRE members to participate in these important research studies:

1. Retention of Faculty of Color in Rehabilitation Counselor Education as it Pertains to Their Perception of the Academic Climate
   - Tameika D. Minor, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

2. Identifying Key Readings for Doctoral Study in Rehabilitation Counseling
   - Malachy Bishop, Ph.D., CRC; Allison Fleming, Ph.D., CRC, University of Kentucky

3. Help re-validate the Spiritual Competency Scale (developed by Dr. Linda Robertson), which is designed to measure counseling professionals’ degree of spiritual competency
   - Junfei Lu, Ph.D., CRC, The University of Alabama

Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the Research Committee, please contact the Administrative Office at info@ncre.org

We would like to remind researchers to please follow the guidelines on the NCRE Website for submitting proposals.

For those of you who receive invitations to participate in research, please be sure that when you open a survey or respond to a request for an interview or information to look for the statement: "This research project has obtained permission to gain access to the NCRE membership for purposes of furthering the mission of the association."
Region I News

Region 1 Representative: Charles Bernacchio, Ed.D., CRC, University of Southern Maine

Assumption College

Website: Assumption College

No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Springfield College

Report Submitted by: Michael Accordino

Website: Springfield College

Fall 2014 Update

Two new faculty have joined the program. In August 2014, Roxanna Pebdani began her position as Assistant Professor in the Rehabilitation and Disability Studies Program. Roxy Pebdani earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the American University of Paris, after which she earned a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling. Her Ph.D. is in counselor education and was received from the University of Maryland. She spent the last two years as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Washington, and also served as an instructor at Western Washington University for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Paul Bourgeois is an Assistant Professor in the Rehabilitation and Disability Studies Program. Mr. Bourgeois is also a current doctoral candidate in the Rehabilitation Counseling and Education program at the University of Arizona. Mr. Bourgeois is a certified rehabilitation counselor with nearly four years of experience as an educator in rehabilitation counseling graduate programs. He is a member of the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA), the National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE), and the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (IARP). Mr. Bourgeois has published and presented on issues related to professional ethical behavior and professional issues in rehabilitation counseling. Currently, his research is focused on the infusion of distance technology in the training and supervision of graduate rehabilitation counseling students.

Our Annual Region 1 meeting has been an excellent way to get caught up and share ideas with everyone in the region. We highly recommend it for other regions, though a face-to-face meeting could be challenging where there is great distance between programs. However, an electronic meeting/teleconference could be just as beneficial and could lead to better obtaining news from the different programs as opposed to e-mail and phone calls.

We had our Annual Meeting of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education Region 1 Faculty on June 27th, 2014 from 10:00am to 1:00pm at Switzer Building, Assumption College.

Agenda for the meeting:

- Welcome and introductions.
- Discussion of the current happenings and concerns in each of our programs.
- Opportunities for collaboration with each other.
- Workforce Investment Act (WIA) reauthorization legislation
- Converting a CORE accredited Rehabilitation Counseling program to a dually accredited
• Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling program
• Issues of Funding

Attendees:

• Springfield College - Paul Bourgeois, Mike Accordino, Joe Stano and Tom Ruscio
• UMass-Boston - James Soldner
• University of Southern Maine - Charles Bernacchio
• CCSU - Cherie King
• Assumption College - Lee Pearson, Susan Sabelli, Tom McCarthy and Robert Bureau
• University of Maine-Farmington - Jewel Jones

Dr. Mike Accordino’s sabbatical product (Comparing Traditional and Distance Formats of a Psychiatric Rehabilitation Course) was converted to manuscript and submitted to the special issue of Rehabilitation Research, Policy, and Education journal on Psychiatric Rehabilitation. This issue will include a diverse array of topics and issues in psychiatric rehabilitation. The manuscript will be co-authored by Dr. Accordino, Prof. Thomas McCarthy from Assumption College Human Services and Rehabilitation Department and Ms. Erica Wondolowski, doctoral candidate from Michigan State University Rehabilitation Counseling Department. This special issue is due for the spring of 2015. A summary of this manuscript will also be submitted as a presentation to the spring 2015 conference of the National Council of Rehabilitation Education. This conference would seem to be the best venue for a study of this nature, given that it has a strong focus on curricular and teaching methodology in rehabilitation counseling.

The Springfield College Rehabilitation and Disability Studies Department has received a five-year $997,500 grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to continue its Long-term Training in Rehabilitation Counseling Program. It is significant to note that this is the 60th year of the establishment of the graduate Rehabilitation Counseling Program started in 1954-55. Springfield College was one of the first schools in the country to establish the program with the awarding of this type of federal training grant

Spring 2015 Update
No report submitted.

University of Massachusetts, Boston

Report Submitted by: Submitted by James Soldner

Website: University of Massachusetts, Boston

Fall 2014 Update

Moved to Global Inclusion & Social Development School. With this transition it is more service responsibilities for faculty. The Institute for Community Inclusion is NIDRR funded projects. There will be a new cohort of doc students enrolled in global inclusion PhD with a specialization in rehabilitation counseling. There is flexibility to take class either online or face-to-face – no clear “online” of “face to face”. Majority of class are cross-listed with other counseling specialties with 40-50 total students – approximately.

Considering 60-credit clinical program in addition to 48-credit program or other counselor accreditation body. TASKSTREAM is an E-portfolio software that is being used for program evaluation. It can be used by students and faculty and used as a requirement for all students. It also matches with CORE standards.
Spring 2015 Update
No report submitted.

University of Southern Maine

Report Submitted by: Charles Bernacchio

Website: University of Southern Maine

Fall 2014 Update and Spring 2015

The program in Rehabilitation Counseling (RC) has taken several steps to expand the recruitment over the next decade. We now have 2 tracks- Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling (VRC) & Psychiatric/Mental Health Rehabilitation Counseling (PsyRC) that are being implemented over distance education.

We have received a new RSA grant that has three cohorts who will complete the VRC track over the next five years. We have also applied for CORE/CACREP accreditation for the PsyRC track in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling. We also have an accelerated 3-2 degree program with the Rehabilitation Services program at University of Maine at Farmington that will have between 8-10 slots for cohorts beginning in 2016. Finally, the RC concentration is in the process of moving much of the curriculum (90%) to be delivered in blended online formats that are expanding cohorts from other University system campuses in the next 2 years.

There is no new faculty position for the RC concentration this year. Plans to include a new faculty line for the RC program are being submitted this spring for 2015-16.

The Center for Community Inclusion at University of Maine has developed an accessibility guide to be used for ascertaining accessibility for professional meetings, and other training or conference events.

There are no conferences and/or trainings being offered specifically to the RC profession in Maine. There are a considerable number of training seminars for mental health practitioners of which RC professionals are included. These are often monthly workshops and webinars that are provided regionally and include continuing education credits for certification and licensure renewal.

Collaborations have occurred between several undergraduate institutions (UMF, UMM and UMFK) and the RC program, which will increase the recruitment for the next few years.
Region 2 News

Region 2 Representative: John Keegan Ph.D., CRC, Hunter College, CUNY

Cornell University

Report Submitted by: Wendy Strobel Gower

Website: Cornell University

Fall 2014 Updates

Diversity Partners Intervention: The Employment and Disability Institute was awarded a Disability and Rehabilitation Research and Related Project called Diversity Partners. The aim of the Diversity Partners Intervention is to improve the capabilities of direct service providers and other employment placement professionals, to improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities. The intervention will offer learning opportunities and tools to enhance effectiveness by building more powerful and sustainable relationships with employers.

Employer Practices RRTC State of the Science

This two-day event featured private sector representatives from: Aetna, Hilton Worldwide, MERCK, the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), and others. The event also featured representatives from federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), Office of Disability Employment, Policy (ODEP), National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Office of Personnel Management (OPM), and more. Visit the event website www.epstateofthescience.org to learn more.

Cross Dataset Catalog now available from the EP-RRTC
A new cross dataset catalog of disability and compensation variables that combines 11 major data sets, and allows for the exploration of variables related to disability, health, work, compensation and employer characteristics. Data on charges filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission have also been extracted and summarized in aggregate into a searchable database of information. Visit www.disabilitystatistics.org/eprrtc/ to learn more about the cross dataset catalog and the EEOC charge data.

Fall 2014 Special issue of Rehabilitation Research, Policy and Education Journal.

A Multi-Disciplinary Perspective on Effective Employer Practices for Enhancing Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Disabilities.

Special Issue Editors, Susanne Bruyère and Linda Barrington, Cornell University

Employer Practices in Improving Employment Outcomes of People with Disabilities: A Trans-Disciplinary Research Approach
Linda Barrington, Susanne Bruyère, and Margaret Waelder, Cornell University

In this article, the authors will provide an overview of a multi-faceted and trans-disciplinary approach to gather and distill information to assess current workplace practices that maximize employment outcomes for people with disabilities. An extensive review of the literature will be summarized, as well as findings from a research working group conducted in collaboration with an international employer association, an overview of preliminary results in two case studies conducted in the private and public sectors, and an overview of the multi-disciplinary studies included in this special issue.


Our scoping review of literature of the past decade for related research conducted in U.S., Canada and U.K., contributes to an understanding of the landscape of available research on employer practices that have an impact on employment outcomes for people with disabilities. Specifically, we document evidence for employer practices in recruitment and hiring, benefits, accommodations/dispute resolution, workplace culture and attitudes, retention and career advancement, and termination of people with disabilities.

Rehabilitation Related Research on Disability and Employer Practices Using Individual-Based National and Administrative Data Sets Zafar Nazarov, William Erickson, and Susanne Bruyère, Cornell University

Demand side or employer-focused research is not prevalent in rehabilitation research and literature. It is useful to examine workplace factors influencing employment outcomes and the intersection between these factors and successful hiring and retention outcomes. A number of large national survey and administrative datasets provide information on employers and can inform this inquiry. This article provides an overview of eleven national survey and administrative datasets that can be used to investigate the impact of employer practices on employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. The literature review provides examples of the disability and employment research performed with these datasets and implications for rehabilitation policy, practice, and research. Rehabilitation researchers need access to information regarding the variables and content of these datasets to identify the datasets that could address their research questions. A description of a new online tool specifically designed to facilitate access to in-depth information regarding the disability and compensation related variables in these datasets is provided. An example of how this tool can help facilitate cross-data comparisons by exploring earning and employment patterns of SSI/SSDI beneficiaries is described.

Estimating Total Compensation Gaps and the Importance of Database Selection Kevin F. Hallock, Xin Jin and Linda Barrington, Cornell University

Hourly wage and salary pay accounts for less than 70 percent of the total hourly compensation for the average American worker. In this study, we estimate the total compensation gap between U.S. employees with disabilities and their nondisabled peers, expanding the framework to include compensation beyond wage and salary pay. Furthermore, we conduct our analysis using three different national survey datasets. We find the wage and salary gap for people with disabilities is larger than the total compensation gap and that there is considerable heterogeneity in the pay gap across differing measures of pay, definitions of disability and data source used. This study supports the conjecture that workers might substitute other benefits in the compensation package for wage and salary pay. It also demonstrates that researchers and practitioners should be careful in interpreting point estimates in research studies, given that different data sources and measures of disability yield different estimated pay gaps. For employers looking to hire persons with disabilities or those offering employment placement services, an important implication of this study is that substantial weight should be put on the importance of non-base pay compensation when seeking the optimal employee-employer match.
Comparison of Employer Factors in Disability and Other Employment Discrimination Charges

Zafar Nazarov and Sarah von Schrader, Cornell University

Workplace factors and employer characteristics significantly impact employees’ experiences, and may be related to the likelihood that an establishment may receive a charge of employment discrimination. In this study, we examine the extent to which employers receiving discrimination charges under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are also receiving charges under other statutes such as the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act (CRA). Further, we explore whether certain establishment characteristics predict ADA charges and whether these same characteristics predict receipt of other charges of employment discrimination. Our findings can inform those working to limit employment discrimination, including rehabilitation professionals, so they can more efficiently target establishments at risk to receive charges and incorporate disability-inclusive practices into more general non-discrimination outreach.

Disability-Inclusive Employer Practices and Hiring of Individuals with Disabilities

William Erickson, Sarah von Schrader, Susanne Bruyère and Sara VanLooy, Cornell University

The employment rate of individuals with disabilities is less than half the rate of individuals without disabilities. Employer practices have the potential to impact this gap and in this study we examine the prevalence of employer practices and policies that are believed to increase disability employment. This study uses data from a recent survey of 675 human resources (HR) professionals to examine variations in the implementation of disability-inclusive recruitment and hiring policies and practices by private employers in the U.S., analyzing them by employer size, federal contractor status, for-profit/non-profit status, and industry. The study then examines the association between recruitment and hiring policies and practices of organizations and actual hiring of individuals with disabilities. These findings can inform rehabilitation professionals who may interface regularly with businesses, to help communicate good practices for finding and hiring qualified candidates.

Accommodation Requests: Who is Asking For What?

Sarah von Schrader, Xu Xu, and Susanne Bruyère

The one provision of the Title I of the ADA that sets it apart from most other civil rights laws is the requirement that the employer provide a qualified applicant/employee with a disability with reasonable accommodation as needed. From national survey data there is relatively little information about the patterns of accommodation requests, but there is some information accommodation need and use. Post ADA, there has been only two nationally representative survey data sources that include questions about disability accommodation in the workplace.

This paper summarizes findings of a study using the Current Population Survey to examine: requested accommodations by disability type; whether they were granted; the number of types of accommodations requested; a comparison of accommodation requests by those with and without disabilities; and variations in accommodation requests by occupation and industry.

Spring 2015 Updates

Wendy Strobel Gower, from the Employment and Disability Institute in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations reported that they have a new series of webinars targeted towards managers:

“Leading in a Disability Inclusive Workplace: 6 Essential Topics for Managers”

Disability in our Workplace: Overview of Legal, Human, & Practical Issues
April 29, 2015 | 2-3:00 PM EST

The Human Element: Interacting with People with Disabilities at Work
May 6, 2015 | 2-3:00 PM EST
Recruitment & Hiring: Legal, Human, and Practical Tips  
May 13, 2015 | 2-3:00 PM EST

Effective Reasonable Accommodation Processes & Practices  
May 20, 2015 | 2-3:00 PM EST

It’s about Performance: Developing the Performance of Team Members with Disabilities  
May 27, 2015 | 2-3:00 PM EST

Building Trust & Openness: Setting the Stage for Moving Forward  
June 3, 2015 | 2-3:00 PM EST

http://edionline.org/courses

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Hilbert College

Reported Submitted By: Kathryn (Kate) Regan Eskew

Website: Hilbert College

Fall 2014 Updates

Kathryn (Kate) Regan Eskew, MS CRC, Associate Professor in Human Services and Rehabilitation Services reported that Hilbert College Rehabilitation Services undergraduate program continues to provide an Bachelor’s of Science in Rehabilitation Services. We also are in the process of affiliating with the St. Bonaventure University – Master’s in Rehabilitation Counseling Program, which will be housed on the Hilbert College Campus in Hamburg NY. This will allow a seamless transition for those students wishing to move directly from the undergrad to graduate program. The program was approved by NYS Department of Education, and will be applying for accreditation as soon as eligible. They anticipate a cohort beginning in the Fall 2015 semester.

Spring 2015 Update

No report submitted.

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Hofstra University

Report Submitted by: Jamie Mitus

Website: Hofstra University

Fall 2014 Update

We are pleased to have secured two new RSA Long-Term Training Grants starting this fall. Presently we are working on the CORE-CACREP application with intent to submit for the February deadline. This is for our Rehabilitation Counseling in Mental Health Program. We also continue to have our traditional Rehabilitation Counseling Program.

The program just completed its annual VOICE Day event (Vision of Integration, Choice, and Equality). This is an event that attracts professionals, consumers, family members and other individuals interested in disability issues. This year, we had several workshops concentrated in three areas of disability: (1) health & wellness, (2) employment, and (3) transition services. We also had 50 exhibitors with over 200 people who attended the event.
In addition, we had the Art Expressions Exhibit sponsored by the Mental Health Association of Nassau County, featuring the work of artists with mental illness. The program will be celebrating its 45th anniversary this year with a celebration to be held in the spring.

Spring 2015 Update

The program was awarded two new RSA grants this year, one with a track in transitioning youth and the other in mental health. We also submitted an application for the CORE-CACREP conversion with the hopes of securing this accreditation in the summer. The program has launched a 5 1/2 year undergraduate to graduate program for students in the undergraduate Psychology program at Hofstra. These undergrads who apply to the program during their junior year can begin taking selected Rehabilitation Counseling courses during their senior year.

Upon graduating from undergrad, they will then continue on with the Master’s program.

We have accepted our first student from the Psychology program who will start in the fall. We have also submitted a proposal to start an undergraduate minor in Human Services that will have a track in Rehabilitation Services. Presently it is under review at the Provost level in the University. The program also co-sponsored several events this spring including: (1) a transition summit with ACCES-VR in January, (2) a Clinical Supervision training for field supervisors in March, (3) an Interviewing Skills training for students in April, and (4) our upcoming annual Winning Edge Conference with ACCES-VR in June. We are also in the process of organizing our 45th anniversary party for the fall.

Hunter College CUNY

Report Submitted by: Elizabeth Cardoso

Website: Hunter College - CUNY

Fall 2014 Update

Elizabeth Cardoso, PhD, has taken over as coordinator for both the rehabilitation counseling and mental health counseling specializations within our counseling program. She is overseeing the process to successfully convert the Rehabilitation Counseling Program into a Clinical Rehabilitation by the start of the Fall 2015 semester. Arnold Wolf, PhD, retired at the conclusion of the Spring 2014 semester and we expect to be able to begin recruiting for another faculty member at the beginning of 2015.

Spring 2015 Update

Elizabeth Cardoso, PhD, who has taken over as coordinator for both the rehabilitation counseling and mental health counseling specializations and is continuing to oversee the process to convert the rehabilitation counseling program into a clinical rehabilitation, which we hope to start by the Fall 2015 semester. Hunter is currently recruiting for another faculty member in rehabilitation.

Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico (PUCPR)

Report Submitted by: Geno Pichette

Website: Pontifical Catholic University in Puerto Rico

Fall 2014 Update

The Rehabilitation Counseling Program accepted 24 new students into its program in August 2014. A total of 77 students are enrolled in the RC Program this year.
The US Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS) 2014 Rehabilitation Training: Rehabilitation Long – Term Training Grant was approved for funding. The Rehabilitation Counseling Program at PUCPR will provide funding for 9 full time students for 2 years of graduate study. The grant was funded for 5 years.

Nester Torres Cruz was hired as a new faculty member in August 2014. He has a masters’ degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. Ana Serrano Gracia is a part time instructor in the Rehabilitation Counseling Program and is completing her PhD from the University of Texas – Pan American. Yancy Cruz Virella teaches full time in the program and is completing her PhD at Southern Illinois University.

Geno Pichette, PhD has been named Program Coordinator for the Rehabilitation Counseling Program. He has been at PUCPR in the Rehabilitation Counseling Program for 5 years. Elsie Ruiz, JD was named Social Science Program Director in June 2014.

5 graduate students in Rehabilitation Counseling at PUCPR will be attending the 2014 NCRE/RSA/CSAVR Annual Fall Conference in Arlington, VA. These students are: Nahir Rosado Ortiz, Daymar Ramos Santiago, Emmanuel Maldonado Laboy, Katherine Valentin Vazquez and Jessica Milanes Romero

**Spring 2015 Update**

Geno Pichette, PUCPR Program Coordinator, reported that they have 2 RSA Grants and will have 16 students travel to the NCRE Spring Conference in Newport Beach, CA. We have just finished some recruitment activities and we expect to have 20-25 new students/cohort by this summer, to be classes in August.

April 30, 2014 will be our Disability Day on campus with nearly 50 agencies taking part in the programming. This year for the first time we are honoring 5 professors who do exceptional work with our students with disabilities and we have selected 4 internship supervisors who do an exceptional job with RC Internship students.

**Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

*Report Submitted by:* No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

*Website:* [Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey](http://www.rutgers.edu)

**State University of New York at Buffalo**

*Report Submitted by:*

*Website:* [State University of New York-Buffalo](http://www.buffalo.edu)

**Fall 2014 Updates**

*Rehabilitation Counseling Master’s Program: On-Line*

The University at Buffalo online Rehabilitation Counseling Master’s Program continues to draw students worldwide. The combined in class and online Rehabilitation Counseling Master’s Program has become one of the largest programs in the University at Buffalo Graduate School of Education. The Rehabilitation Counseling Program is delivered online in two years and one semester of part-time study. Students take two courses per semester for a minimum total of 48 credit hours.
**Rehabilitation Counseling Master’s Program**
The Rehabilitation Counseling Program currently has 114 students enrolled in its program. Twenty-one percent are on-campus students and 79% are distance-learning students. Of the 114 students, 20 are non-Caucasian and 17 are students with disabilities.

**Research**
Dr. Wang and Dr. Janikowski are collaborating on research that examines student performance, satisfaction and engagement with online and on-campus instruction. They hope to present preliminary findings at the spring 2015 NCRE conference. In addition, the research areas of Dr. Wang focus on evidence-based vocational rehabilitation services for DVR consumers, biopsychosocial factors that promote the employment and community participation of people with disabilities, and the development of employment outcomes in vocational rehabilitation.

**Faculty Position Available**
Currently, we are posting for an Assistant Professor in Rehabilitation/Mental Health Counseling.

**Category R approved for Spring 2014**
The Advanced Graduate Certificate Program has been expanded to include meeting the educational requirements for Category D and E. Category R expands certification eligibility through attainment of a post-graduate advanced certificate or degree in lieu of a second Master’s degree in Counseling or Rehabilitation Counseling. Qualified individuals with advanced degrees in thirteen areas of study may be eligible to sit for the CRC Exam, providing they meet the additional coursework and employment requirements.

CRCC has compiled a list of universities that have developed (or are developing) post-graduate certificate or degree programs, via both on-campus and distance education formats, to support Category R requirements.

**Spring 2015 Updates**
The University at Buffalo online Rehabilitation Counseling Master’s Program continues to draw students worldwide. The combined in class and online Rehabilitation Counseling Master’s Program has become one of the largest programs in the University at Buffalo Graduate School of Education. The Rehabilitation Counseling Program is delivered online in two years and one semester of part-time study. Students take two courses per semester for a minimum total of 48 credit hours.

The Rehabilitation Counseling Program currently has 116 students enrolled in its program. Twenty-two (19%) are on-campus students and 94 (81%) are distance-learning students. Of the 116 students, 23 are non-Caucasian and 21 are students with disabilities.

Dr. Wang, Dr. Janikowski and Dr. Guyker are collaborating on research that examines student performance, satisfaction and engagement with online and on-campus instruction. They will be presenting their findings at the spring 2015 NCRE conference. They are also working on a factorial analytical study on a related instrument: The Student Course Engagement Questionnaire - Modified.

Dr. Scott A. Sabella will be joining the Rehabilitation Counseling faculty in Fall 2015. Dr. Sabella completed his Ph.D. in Human Rehabilitation 2007 at the University of Northern Colorado- Greeley, Colorado. Currently, Dr. Sabella is a Data Analyst and Research Methods Consultant at the Rocky Mountain ADA Center in Colorado Springs. From 2007 -2014 Dr. Sabella was the Director of Technical Assistance and Continuing Education Center in Region 8. Dr. Sabella has conducted over 40 professional presentations/training across the country. From 2007-2014 he has been conducting brain injury survivor support groups through the Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado. This includes leading monthly support group meetings of approximately 10-35 attendees consisting of brain injury survivors, family members, and other supporters.
The Advanced Graduate Certificate Program has been expanded to include meeting the educational requirements for Category D and E. Category R expands certification eligibility through attainment of a post-graduate advanced certificate or degree in lieu of a second Master’s degree in Counseling or Rehabilitation Counseling. Qualified individuals with advanced degrees in thirteen areas of study may be eligible to sit for the CRC Exam, providing they meet the additional coursework and employment requirements.

University of Puerto Rico in Ponce

Report Submitted by: No Fall/Spring reports submitted.
Website: University of Puerto Rico in Ponce
Region 3 News

Region 3 Representative: Carolyn E. Hawley, Ph.D., CRC, Virginia Commonwealth University

Coppin State University

Report Submitted by: No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: Coppin State University

The George Washington University

Report Submitted by: No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: The George Washington University

University of the District of Columbia

Report Submitted by: Benson Cooke

Website: University of the District of Columbia

Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 Updates

Dr. Benson Cooke reported there are no new updates to the program at this time.

University of Maryland-Eastern Shore

Report Submitted by: No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: University of Maryland-Eastern Shore

Pennsylvania State University

Report Submitted by: Liza Conyers

Website: Pennsylvania State University

Fall 2014 Update

We were recently awarded a 5-year RSA grant to train vocational rehabilitation counselors.

In the 2013-14 academic year we had two new tenure track faculty join our program Jason Gines and Wendy Codutti. This year Priyanka Yalamanchili has joined our faculty as a fixed term faculty member. Brandon Hunt took a new position at Georgia Southern University.

In April, the PA Rehabilitation Association held its annual Professional Development Institute PSU has established a collaboration with the PA Department of Health to integrate vocational item into an Unmet Needs Assessment for people living with HIV/AIDS.
We also established a collaboration with the Bureau on Blindness and Visual Services to offer a summer camp for youth in transition who are blind or have vision loss. This was held on the PSU campus for 3 weeks during the summer and was a tremendous success. We will continue this collaboration next year.

Spring 2015 Update

Liza reported that Allison Flemming will be joining the faculty in August. The PA Rehabilitation Associations Professional Development Institute was another tremendous success this year and there were several great student poster sessions and participation from many of the RC programs including Pitt, Scranton, Clarion and PSU.

University of Pittsburgh

Report Submitted by: No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: University of Pittsburgh

University of Scranton

Report Submitted by: No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: University of Scranton

Virginia Commonwealth University

Report Submitted by: Carolyn Hawley

Website: Virginia Commonwealth University

Fall 2014 Update

We are pleased to announce that Courtney Holmes Ph.D., LPC, recently joined the faculty in a tenure track position. Recently the VCU Board of Visitors has approved a program expansion from 48 to 60 credits. We are now seeking SCHEV approval. We intend to pursue dual accreditation at some point.

Currently, VCU has a new RSA grant to train rehabilitation counselors who plan to work with mental health caseloads for state vocational rehabilitation agencies, as well as a continuing RSA grant to recruit and train vocational rehabilitation counselors to work with people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Additional grant projects include: RRTC on Employment of People with Physical Disabilities, NIDRR; and Bridging Richmond: Enhancing Community Re-integration of OEF/OIF Veterans; Sheltering Arms Foundation.

NIDRR Researcher Honored for Life Care Planning Research: Paul Wehman, PhD, principal investigator for the NIDRR-funded Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment of People with Physical Disabilities, received the Patricia McCollom Research Award from the Foundation for Life Care Planning Research. This award acknowledges research that contributes to the field of life care planning and provides meaningful data that can be applied directly to life care planning and case management practices.

Spring 2015 Update

We continue to establish the 60 credit hour program to meet the requirements for Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling. The Virginia LPC Board is proposing to move towards only recognizing licensure applicants who graduated from a CACREP or CACREP affiliated program.
VCU faculty, including Professors McMahon, Kim, Reid, Hawley, Armstrong, Kreutzer and Marwitz, are collaborating with fellow NCRE members, Professors Livneh, Rumrill, Martz, Lee, Gonzalez, Elias and Brickham on the "Interface of Rehabilitation with Positive Psychology" for the Journal of Occupational Rehabilitation.

The generation of manuscripts continues by the National EEOC ADA Research Project @ VCU involving Dr. McMahon and Dr. Todd Van Wieren from VCU with fellow NCRE members, Professors Rumrill, Shaw and Hurley, most recently involving impairments of TBI, mental health, and the impact of the ADA Amendments on allegation patterns.

Dr. Carolyn Hawley will be providing professional training on problem gambling for the International Program in Addiction Studies (IPAS), this is a joint endeavor with VCU, King’s College of London, and Adelaide University of Australia.

Dr. Courtney Holmes received the Outstanding Scholar Award (2014) from NBCC's National Peer-Reviewed Journal - The Professional Counselor


Dr. Holmes also received a grant from the Association for Specialists in Group work. Kozlowski, K. A. (principal investigator), & Holmes, C. M. (co-principal investigator) (2015). Online group counseling: A national survey of service provision. Association for Specialists in Group Work: funded $1,200.

**West Virginia University**

**Report Submitted by:** Margaret Glenn

**Website:** [West Virginia University](http://www.wvu.edu)

**Fall 2014 Update**

John Blake, a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, joined the faculty of WVU this year. We are very happy with the addition, as it rounds off a very comprehensive set of expertise on our faculty with his experience with Veterans. At one point he served as Program Coordinator of *Coming Home to Work* 2010-2011 where he implemented early intervention and outreach initiative to increase availability of VRE services to eligible service members and veterans.

He joins the current faculty of Margaret Glenn, George Mamboleo, and Regina Burgess. Margaret Glenn has been on the faculty at WVU for 14 years and is the coordinator of the program. She graduated from The George Washington University and has experience in both the public VR sector and substance abuse counseling. George Mamboleo, Assistant Professor, brings an international perspective to our program.

He graduated from the University of Arizona where he was the recipient of the Mary, F. & Maude D. Miller Scholarship Award. His research is focused on access services in higher education. Regina Burgess, CRC, LPC is a teaching instructor in the program. She has experience in the private rehabilitation sector and vocational evaluation. She is serving as the clinical coordinator for the program.

The team is preparing to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the hiring of a rehabilitation counseling coordinator to create our program. We are saddened that we will not be able to celebrate with our first coordinator, a gentleman and a scholar - W. Alfred McCauley. A memorial fund was established in his name at the WVU Foundation, for the program he loved and was so proud to follow.
We also had to say goodbye to one of our dearest and most consistent supporters, Michael Oliverio, Sr. Mike had been chair of our advisory group for a very long time and ambassador of our program for decades. We started the WVUF Fund 2V874 Michael Oliverio Rehabilitation Counseling Student Development a number of years ago and it was his wish that donations be made to the fund in his memory. Donations to the fund may be made to: WVUF-Oliverio Fund 2V874, WVU Foundation, Inc., 1 Waterfront Place 7th Floor, P.O. Box 1650, Morgantown, WV 26507.

WVUOnline produced a great video highlighting our working rehabilitation counseling students. They talk about what the degree is bringing to their work every day! Check it out at http://online.wvu.edu/rehabCounseling/

In August 2014, Margaret Glenn collaborated with the Job Accommodation Network located at WVU and Marcie Davis, founder of International Assistance Dog Week, to information on assistance dogs in the workplace.

Go to http://www.servicedogsintheworkplace.com to locate the webinar, an accompanying blog as well as articles which have appeared in the Huffington Post, the most recent being Service Dogs in the Workplace: How to Make it work http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kate-kelly/service-dogs-in-the-workp_b_5655838.html

Margaret received the College's Outstanding Researcher of the Year Award for her service dog research.

The Rehabilitation Counselor Education program held its Annual Internship Seminar at Lakeview Resort on March 20, 2014. Over 80 people, including students, alumni, supervisors, and employers, were in attendance. The purpose of the event is fourfold, first and foremost to celebrate the completion of our students’ graduate education. This year 22 students from all over the country were present to receive the accolade. The second major purpose is to provide an opportunity for employers and students to meet and learn more about internship and job opportunities. This year 7 states, including WV, were represented in the employer group. The third purpose is to provide a continuing education opportunity for our alumni and clinical site supervisors. Dr. Margaret Glenn presented a two hour lecture “Positive Psychology in Rehabilitation Counseling: The Tale of an Unexpected Journey of Discovery.”

Spring 2015 Update

We received approval to modify our Rehabilitation Counselor Education program to Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling. The changes are coming up just as we are undertaking the peer review process of our online courses with Quality Matters. Margaret Glenn continues as the program coordinator. Regina Burgess is serving as clinical coordinator and coordinates the undergraduate minor program in Human Services.

John Blake was awarded a $3,000.00 grant by the College of Education and Human Service’s Program Evaluation and Research Center. The grant will help fund a study he is conducting in conjunction with the Jon Michael Moore Trauma Center at Ruby Memorial Hospital. He is investigating how individuals’ attachment profiles and levels of hope can contribute to improved outcomes after traumatic injury.

George Mamboleo received a $2,518 grant from the College of Education and Human Service’s Program Evaluation and Research Center. Project Title: Perceptions of students with disabilities toward professors’ willingness to provide accommodations within universities and colleges in the State of West Virginia. The aim of this study is to identify students' perceptions of professors' willingness to provide accommodations for students with verified disabilities in public colleges and universities in the State of West Virginia. It is expected that the results from this study will inform a more thorough study in which interventions aimed at improving processes of requesting and receiving accommodations for students with disabilities will be implemented.

Margaret Glenn was awarded a WVU Community Engagement Grant this year to undertake a project titled Strategizing the Creation of a Veterans’ Intentional Community in Morgantown, WV. The abstract follows.
West Virginia is known for its patriotism, which is most clearly evidenced in the number of our sons and daughters who have served in the military throughout the decades. In addition to valuing military service, West Virginians also see it as our duty to create opportunities for veterans to be successful when transitioning back to civilian life after deployment. A local nonprofit agency, the Human Animal Bond Inc., requested assistance from the clinical rehabilitation and mental health counseling program at West Virginia University (WVU) to create just such an opportunity. This discussion has led to the proposition of an intentional community where veterans can reside in a sustainable green space, and to contribute to the greater community through involvement in WVU’s Hearts of Gold service dog efforts.

Intentional communities are pioneers in personal and cultural transformation, sustainable living, and peaceful social evolution. As such, our proposed community could be a place where veterans can live and thrive communally, working together through shared goals in their return to civilian life. They would have the opportunity to serve other veterans through the Hearts of Gold service dog program, as well as the ability to pursue higher education or other vocational ventures. The placement of this community will be supportive of veterans’ health and well-being through the inclusion of a nature-based environment, and veterans will have access to complementary healthcare practices to support recovery and rehabilitation efforts.

In order to accomplish this vision, we require the assistance of stakeholders who can be engaged in the development and planning of such a community. The Community Engagement Grant funded by WVU will allow us to listen to and gather information from stakeholders, and to condense that information into a strategic plan for development. Important components of the strategic planning process will include the identification of key elements, challenges, resources, potential funding, and any educational components, research, and publications that will be associated with the development of the intentional community.

Margaret also submitted an application for a grant with the National Institute of Justice for a project titled: Service Dogs & Inmates: A Promising Practice Model for Vocational Training and Rehabilitation.
Region 4 news

Region 4 Representative: Brenda Cartwright, Ed.D., CRC, NCC, MHC, Winston Salem State University

Alabama State University

Report Submitted by: J. Chad Duncan

Website: [Alabama State University](#)

Spring 2015 Update

The program is actively searching for A Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Studies/Program Coordinator of Rehabilitation Counseling.

Auburn University

Report Submitted by: Lee Ann Rawlins-Alderman

Website: [Auburn University](#)

Fall 2014 Update

Lee Ann Rawlins-Alderman, PhD, CRC, CFLE reported on the growth of the Undergraduate Rehabilitation and Disability studies program. It is exciting to see this large inflow of students coming to Auburn to receive this undergraduate degree. Student numbers are up with a 35% increase over the previous years. The RDS program is currently seeking CORE accreditation and will have site visitation in February 2015.

Spring 2015 Update

No report submitted.

East Carolina University

Report Submitted by: No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: [East Carolina University](#)

Florida Atlantic University

Report Submitted by: Micheael Frain

Website: [Florida Atlantic University](#)

Fall 2014 Update

No report submitted.

Spring 2015 Update

No changes to our program but we have applied for CORE/CACREP accreditation.
No new faculty has joined the program and we are still trying to grow, but getting little support. There is talk of privatizing VR system; there are lots of jobs in this region.

Florida Atlantic University is collaborating with University of Kentucky and Wisconsin to increase employment for veterans with disabilities. We are now the second highest ranked program at FAU despite only one professor and being passed over for new faculty. 24th in US News and World Report!

**Georgia State University**

**Report Submitted by:** Dennis Gilbride

**Website:** [Georgia State University](http://www.gsu.edu)

**Fall 2014 Update**

Dennis Gilbride reported The GSU Rehabilitation Counseling program is in the process of transitioning to the 60 credit Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling program. We have received University approval and are just waiting for final approval from the Board of Regents.

Our program also just received and RSA Long Term Training grant for specialists in mental illness. We have added course work and have a partnership with Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency to provide specialized internships for our RSA scholars.

Dr. Cirleen DeBlare has joined as an affiliate faculty of Rehabilitation Counseling. Her scholarship and professional interests focus on the intersection of multiple minority identities, minority stressors (e.g., stigma, prejudice, discrimination), and risk and resiliency factors in the mental and physical health of minority populations. We are going to be working with Boston University’s Center for Psychosocial Rehabilitation on our new RSA grant. BU will be developing specific curricular materials for evidence-based practice with consumer with MI. We are hoping to disseminate these materials across the region.

**Spring 2015 Update**

We have received final approval, and will begin offering a 60 credit Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling program beginning Fall 2015.

In January 2015, RSA Commissioner Janet LaBreck was invited as a keynote to the National Multicultural Conference and Summit in Atlanta, GA. She was nominated by our faculty member, Franco Dispenza, to speak and advocate on behalf of Americans living with Disabilities.

GSU received an RSA long-term training grant in the area of Mental Illness. We are collaborating with Boston University’s Center for Psychosocial Rehabilitation program. We have already had one webinar and plan to work closely with BU to provide advanced training on Vocational rehabilitation for people with Mental Illness to our pre-service students, and to VR staff that provide internships for our students.
Jackson State University

Report Submitted by: Dr. Dion Porter and Dr. Frank Giles

Website: [Jackson State University](#)

Fall 2014 Update

No report submitted.

Spring 2015 Update

The program remains the same other than a change in the Program Coordinator position. Dr. Dion Porter who has served at the post for the last 7 years has been promoted to Department Chair, while Dr. Frank Giles who brings many years of experience in the field and who has held the position for many years in the past is the new Program Coordinator.

We are currently in the process of a faculty search and expect the new person to be in place by August of 2015.

We have cemented a very productive and fruitful collaboration with the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS), which greatly assists our program with our Practicum and Internship placements of our graduate students. Specifically what may be of interest to other regions or graduating rehabilitation counseling students for other areas is that MDRS has been in the process of hiring qualified masters-level rehabilitation counselors who may be interested in re-locating to the area. There are several positions that are open and coming open in the very near future for all interested rehabilitation professionals.

The Rehabilitation Counseling Program in conjunction with the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program has hosted several CRC/LPC informational sessions and preparation workshops for all those students and professionals in the area who were interested in professional certification and/or licensure. In addition, Dr. Frank Giles presented a conference paper with several rehabilitation counseling graduate students during the Jackson State University (JSU), International festival held in March 2015. The presentation was entitled Academic and Language Outcomes for Children Following Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): International Implications (Giles, Hammond & Callahan, 2015). The presentation focused upon transition from school to work using TBI meta-analysis outcome data as an example of evidence-based rehabilitation counseling.

The Program is currently in preparation for its 2015 CORE Reaccreditation site visit, which will take place early next year. We are busy developing several new hybrid and online offerings which should make the Program much more marketable within its current metropolitan location, and line up with the Mission of our College as well as the University.

Mississippi State University

Report Submitted by: Charles D. Palmer

Website: [Mississippi State University](#)

Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 Updates

Charles Palmer reported there have been no changes to or within the program at this time.
Fall 2014 Update

North Carolina A&T State University established a doctoral program in Rehabilitation Counseling and Rehabilitation Counselor Education. The primary goal of the program is to increase the number of rehabilitation counselor educators by preparing culturally competent students to work as counselor educators, researchers, clinicians, and supervisors. In addition to establishing a core foundation in rehabilitation counseling and research, graduates have a specialty and/or certificate in Trauma and Trauma Informed Care.

The doctoral program is coordinated by Dr. Tyra Turner Whittaker, RhD, LPC, CRC. Dr. Michael Brooks, PhD, LPC, is an Associate Professor within the doctoral program. Currently, there are two Associate/Full Professor position openings in our dynamic program. The M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling program welcomed Dr. Glacia Ethridge as a new Assistant Professor.

North Carolina A&T State University’s Department of Human Development and Services is hosting its 9th Annual Rehabilitation of Racial and Ethnic Minorities with Behavioral Addictions (REMBA) Conference on April 9th - 10th in Greensboro, NC. This year’s conference theme is “Teaching, Reflecting, Advocating, Uncovering the Multiple faces of Addictions”.

More information about the conference, including the Call for Proposals, can be found at the website below: http://www.ncat.edu/academics/schools-colleges1/soe/hdsv/remba/index.html

The Department of Human Development hosted the 8th Annual REMBA Conference, the Fall Family Counseling Conference, and a Trauma Summit. The PhD in Rehabilitation Counseling and Rehabilitation Counselor education program co-hosted a one-day conference with East Carolina University in the area of Military Trauma. If you are interested in joining our dynamic faculty, please click on the link below for employment opportunities: https://jobs.ncat.edu/

Spring 2015 Update

The doctoral program in Rehabilitation Counseling and Rehabilitation Counselor Education continues to solidify its specialization in Trauma and Trauma Informed Care through the conferences, workshops, and the certification process.

The Department of Human Development and Services held its Fall Family Conference, the 8th Annual Rehabilitation of Racial and Ethnic Minorities with Behavioral Addictions (REMBA) Conference. Additionally, numerous HIV/AIDS workshops were offered through the Be A Substance Abuse and AIDS Free Environment (Be SAFE) Grant.

The Department of Human Development and Services continues to grow and is seeking faculty to join our dynamic department. Additionally, we continue to recruit stellar students to join both the doctoral and master’s program.

The M.S in Mental Health Counseling-Rehabilitation program was awarded a RSA Long-Term training Grant as a result of the previous grant competition. Dr. Glacia Ethridge serves as the PI and Dr. Quintin Boston is a Co-PI for the grant.
South Carolina State University

Report Submitted by: Dr. Cassandra Sligh Conway

Website: South Carolina State University

Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 Update

Dr. Cassandra Sligh Conway reported there are no changes to the Rehabilitation Counseling program and that faculty continues to receive RSA grants.

Thomas University

Report Submitted by: Cristina Jones

Website: Thomas University

Fall 2014 Update

Cristina Jones, Ph.D. reported the program is undergoing the conversion self-study to acquire CACREP accreditation and we should hear something by the summer. The program has already been converted to a Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling Program and our program of study now reflects a combined Mental Health and Rehabilitation counseling curriculum with a Substance Abuse specialization still being offered.

Mr. David Barnett has joined us this summer and is teaching in the undergraduate rehabilitation counseling program. There were several conferences and training seminars that were conducted within their program and region. This includes the following: CACREP self-study training workshop, Self-Study training seminar and conversion workshop in Chicago, Illinois, CACREP self-study training in Birmingham, Alabama, SACES Conference in Birmingham, AL, and NCRE Fall 2014 Conference. Thomas University would be interested in collaborating with other universities for networking, program enhancement, and recruitment.

Spring 2015 Update

This spring we have submitted our conversion self-study seeking dual accreditation by CACREP and CORE. We have converted our program from a Rehabilitation Counseling and Community Counseling program into a Master of Science Program in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling. We still offer a specialization in Addictions Counseling that can be completed in addition to our core curriculum.

In order to meet the needs of our class loads, we have promoted two of our highly qualified adjunct instructors to full-time faculty. They have been with us in the adjunct capacity for many years and have proven themselves to be wonderful additions to our full-time faculty.

At the moment, the next three ACA annual conferences will be taking place in the Southeast region. Within our region, there were several conferences such as the NCRE fall conference and the SACES Fall conference, both of which offered training to complete a CACREP self-study. These were invaluable training tools to help new faculty that haven’t completed this sort of project the opportunity to gain some insight into the process. In addition the ACA Spring Conference was conducted in our region.

At this time, we are planning to collaborate with a University that offers a doctoral program in Counseling that our graduating Master’s students can apply to in the event they want to further their education.
Our program has received many recognitions over the past year including being named to the Best Online Masters in Counseling Programs, the Best Counseling Degrees by Best Online Schools, we were named to the Wise Choice Best School Choices and also as one of the Most Affordable Counseling Degrees by Online U. We continue to develop new ways to make our program competitive and innovative in order to provide our students with the best training to become successful professionals.

**Troy University**

*Report Submitted by:* Dr. Cozetta Shannon

*Website:* [Troy University](#)

**Fall 2014 Update**

Dr. Cozetta Shannon reported the Undergraduate (at Troy, Phenix City, and Dothan Locations) and Graduate (at Montgomery, Phenix City, Troy, and Dothan Locations) program are still being offered.

There have been changes to our CORE faculty. Please review the following information below:

**Undergraduate:** Joshua Southwick, Ph.D., CRC (note: new hire)

**Graduate:**

- Suzanne Tew-Washburn, Ph.D., SPHR, CRC
- Cozetta D. Shannon Ph.D., CRC
- Latofia Parker, Ph.D, CRC, NCC
- Paola Premuda-Conti, Ph.D., CRC
- Joel P. Willis, Ph.D., LPC, CRC, NCC (note: move from undergrad to graduate program)

**Spring 2015 Update**

Troy graduate students are doing well and being hired at a consistent rate. More students are being hired in states outside of Alabama and Georgia. Currently, we have two recent graduates that are working for State VR agencies in Pennsylvania and South Carolina.

**University of Alabama**

*Report Submitted by:* Dr. Rick Houser

*Website:* [University of Alabama](#)

**Fall 2014 Update**

Rick Houser reported there have been no changes to the program. Dr. Junfei Lu with a doctorate from the University of Iowa in Rehabilitation Counseling joined the program in August 2014.

**Spring 2015 Update**

No report submitted.
University of Florida

Report Submitted by: No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: University of Florida

University of Kentucky

Report Submitted by: Ralph M. Crystal

Website: University of Kentucky

Fall 2014 Update

Ralph M. Crystal reported there have been no changes to their program. Dr. Allison Fleming, PhD joined the program in August 2012 as an Assistant Professor. We are presently conducting a Needs Assessment for the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and we co-sponsored a seminar on the DSM – 5 with the Univ. of Kentucky Human Development Institute in March 2014.

Spring 2015 Update

No report submitted.

University of Memphis

Report Submitted by: Steve Zanskas

Website: University of Memphis

Fall 2014 Update

Steve Zanskas, Ph.D., CRC. LPC reported CORE reaccredited the program in 2014. We are currently in the process of preparing our application for the CORE/CACREP Clinical Rehabilitation accreditation. We have developed and provided intense week long graduate courses in Case Management and Medical & Psychosocial Aspects of Disability to assist the State of Tennessee Division of Rehabilitation Services with staff development. A national conference was held in February of 2014 regarding “Power & Mental Illness”. We were awarded a State of Tennessee Technical Assistance Grant for FY 2014-2015 and an RSA Long Term Training Grant for 2014-2019.

Spring 2015 Update

No report submitted.

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Report Submitted by: No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
University of South Carolina

Report Submitted by: Dr. Kerry Lachance

Website: University of South Carolina

Fall 2014 Update

Kerry Lachance reported that she and Dr. Mike Walsh developed and are delivering a professional training program in counseling skills for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) professionals at SCVRD. The training design utilizes a great deal of experiential learning and processing as learning interventions. First piloted with a small group of 50 VR professionals in 2013, Mike and Kerry have now trained over 350 VR professionals including VR counselors, job coaches, and managers, and facilitate quarterly counseling skills training for newly hired VR professionals. Dr. Robert Dawson presented at USC OctoberBest on the topic of “Using Assistive and Adaptive Technology to Enhance Accessibility in the Classroom.” USC Octoberbest is an annual event for USC educators and graduate students and Dr. Dawson’s session was well-attended and generated university-wide awareness and interest in the rehabilitation-counseling program.

The program was awarded a new 5 year Rehabilitation Long-Term Training Grant from the Dept. of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration. The term of the award is 2014 - 2019 and the focus is “Expanding the Next Generation of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Professionals.” Dr. Dawson is the PI and Dr. Lachance is the Co-PI on this grant. Dr. Karin Brockelman will be presenting on the topic of psychiatric advanced directives among college students at the NCRE meeting in November 2014.

Spring 2015 Update

No report submitted.

University of South Florida

Report Submitted by: Tennyson J. Wright

Website: University of South Florida

Fall 2014 Update

Tennyson J. Wright reported they have a new Visiting Instructor: Barbara LoFrisco, Ph.D., a graduate of the Department of Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling Program at the University of South Florida. Barbara joined the Department in Fall 2014 after completing a doctoral degree in Counselor Education at the University. She entered private practice after graduation with a master’s degree and is a certified sexologist. She is an experienced practitioner and teaches clinical courses and research.

On July 9, 2014, Janet LaBreck, the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) visited the University of South Florida, along with RSA Program Specialist Christyne Cavataio and Department of Education Chief of Staff Kathy Hebda. Three programs were showcased for their work in training and research for vocational rehabilitation. Among these were two College of Behavioral and Community Sciences programs: the Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Program and the Learning Academy and Employment Services, a part of the Florida Mental Health Institute.

The visit focused on programs that support the RSA’s mission to establish a job-driven vocational rehabilitation technical assistance center to offer training and technical assistance to those with disabilities. The overarching goal to help provide skills and competencies to those with disabilities fits with these CBCS programs, as well as USF’s Rehabilitation...
Engineering Program and its Center for Assistive, Rehabilitation & Robotics Technologies (CARRT), which was also showcased for Commissioner LaBreck.

Spring 2015 Update
No report submitted.

The University of Tennessee

Report Submitted by: Wayne Mulkey, Ph.D., CRC
Website: University of Tennessee

Fall 2014 Update
No report submitted.

Spring 2015 Update
Our Certificate in Deafness Rehabilitation Counseling in final stages of approval by the University. We completed our CORE site visit in March 2015. Received two RSA student-support grants in the past year: one “general”, one “deafness” Currently have twenty students.

Winston-Salem State University

Report Submitted by: Dr. Yolanda Edwards
Website: Winston-Salem State University

Fall 2014 Update
There are no new updates to the program at this time.

Spring 2015 Update
Additional coursework on psychopathology and treatment has been added to the program.
Region 5 News

Region 5 Representative: Eun-Jeong Lee, Ph.D., CRC, Illinois Institute of Technology

Adler University

Report Submitted by: Mary O’Connor Drout

Website: Adler University

Fall 2014 Update

No report submitted.

Spring 2015 Update

As of January 5, 2015 the Adler School of Professional Psychology officially became known as Adler University.

On April 13, 2015 we held our Third Annual Abilities Symposium, The focus of this event is on ability, resilience, and available resources within the Chicago community for persons with disabilities. This year we had several speakers who addressed inclusion in the areas of work, sport, physical activity, and art.

We were fortunate to establish a partnership with the Asians with Disabilities Outreach Project Think Tank (ADOPT), with colleagues at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Illinois Division of Rehabilitation Services.

Illinois Institute of Technology

Report Submitted by: Eun-Jeong Lee

Website: Illinois Institute of Technology

Fall 2014 Update

Patrick Corrigan, a distinguished professor, recently spoke about mental illness stigma in the Muslim community to LevantTV (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=099IV53wYas). Pat’s work has recently been acknowledged in a press release produced by APS. You can see the press release on the APS site: http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/news/releases/stigma-as-a-barrier-to-mental-health-care.html

Kelly Kazukauskas, a clinical assistant professor, offered Clinical supervision orientation and training workshop, “effective and ethical clinical supervision in rehabilitation and mental health counseling” for site supervisors. The event was free and offered with 2 ethics CEUs for certified rehabilitation counselors.

The program offers “job search and placement: Panel discussion” for Master’s students. The event was free and offered with 2 CEUs for certified rehabilitation counselors.

We recently received a 5-year long-term training grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (U.S Department of Education). Jon Larson, an assistant professor received a recent award, “Testing Effectiveness of NeuroField: A Pulsed Electromagnetic Field System for Electroencephalogram Regulation.” Submitted to Neurofield Inc.
Eun-Jeong Lee, an associate professor received Wanger Institute for Sustainable Energy Research (WISER) pilot research award, “Using Psychology to Train Technology with Power Assisted Wheelchairs” to conduct focus group study to test power assist wheelchair prototype among people with spinal cord injury.

Spring 2015 Update

We changed our Master’s program name to Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling. We submitted our self-study to CORE to convert to CLRC in February.

“Let’s talk about sex, disability, and ethics” was presented by Amanda Tashjian as CRC CE workshop in November 2014. It reviewed basic concepts associated with sexuality and disability including defining sexuality, sexual orientation, body image and disability, case conceptualization, and CRCC ethical codes associated with sexuality, disability, and counseling. Additionally, the presentation allowed for a discussion of case scenarios related to sexuality and disability that have a number of ethical principles associated with each. The presentation brought awareness to sexuality as apart of culture, sexuality as paramount to self-identity, self-esteem, and self-efficacy for people with disabilities, and sexuality counseling as a responsibility of Certified Rehabilitation Counselors.

The CRC CE seminar, “Understanding the stigma of suicide,” was presented by Lindsay Sheehan on April 17th, 2015. Patrick Corrigan received Sigma XI research award. This award recognizes exemplary accomplishments in research, scholarship, and creative activity by IIT faculty members.

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Report Submitted by: No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: Minnesota State University-Mankato

Michigan State University


Website: Michigan State University

Fall 2014 Update

We were successful in attracting and hiring an exceptionally talented new tenure line faculty member, Dr. Gloria Lee, for our program at MSU. Dr. Lee has started her position as an associate professor and Director of MA Rehabilitation Counseling Program with us in Fall 2014.

In December 2014, we will send out a postdoctoral call for the Hegarty Fellows Program with the MSU-DOCTRID Institute. We target to recruit our second cohort of three post-doctoral research associates with two-year research appointments with the MSU-DOCTRID Institute starting in August 2015.

MSU ORDS, being one of the co-founders of a unique interdisciplinary research institute on intellectual disability and autism, named DOCTRID, received funding from the Marie Curie EU COFUND for a proposal on Assistive Technologies in Autism and Intellectual Disability (ASSISTID) in Spring 2014.

The ASSISTID postdoc call welcome any doctoral level graduates from the U.S. who is interested in receiving 2-year postdoctoral research training at one of our partner institutions in Ireland to conduct research related to autism, intellectual disabilities and assistive technology. If you know of any students and colleagues who might be interested in applying for these unique postdoc appointments, please spread the word. Here is the ASSISTID website.
http://www.assistid.eu for additional information and application procedures. The deadline of application is November 30, 2014.

Also, at MSU, we will host five to eight postdoctoral fellows who come from one of the Irish universities. These postdocs will start their two-year research appointments in Spring 2015.

Dr. Connie Sung received the Mary E. Switzer Research Fellowship from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) for fiscal year 2014. Our Master of Arts (MA) Rehabilitation Counseling Program has received a 5-year training grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (U.S Department of Education). The funding will allow us to provide scholarships for graduate students in our MA Rehabilitation Counseling Program.

Spring 2015 Update

Founded by Dr. Michael Leahy, we continued the Study Abroad Program for Students with Disabilities in Dublin, Ireland at the University College Dublin (UCD). We are in the process of exploring the potential of expanding this experience in Asia (Hong Kong) in the summer of 2017 with Drs. Sung and Lee leading this effort.

The fourth international conference of DOCTRID (Daughters of Charity Technology and Research into Disability) will be held in Belfast, Ireland, from April 26- April 28. Presentations and workshops will be held with our Irish partners in the dissemination and training in the areas of policy, technology and evidence-based practices for families and individuals with autism and other intellectual and neurodevelopmental disabilities.

At the DOCTRID conference in Belfast, Dr. Michael Leahy will continue to lead on a US/Ireland research project and proposal that aims at investigating the use of technology in assisting individuals with autism and other intellectual developmental disabilities in their employment and independent living.

We are currently accepting applications for the ASSISTID EU Marie Curie Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program that involves the DOCTRID Research Institute and its university partners, including MSU. The Fellowships are for two-year appointment at one of our partner institutions in Ireland to conduct research related to autism, intellectual disabilities and assistive technology.

We are in the process of finalizing our second cohort of three Hegarty Postdoctoral Research Fellows with the Michigan State University-DOCTRID Research Institute. Their two-year research appointments will start in August 2015, and be colocated between MSU and one of our partner universities in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Dr. Michael Leahy was the recipient of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE) Distinguished Career in Rehabilitation Education Award.

Northern Illinois University

Report Submitted by: Craig Johnston

Website: Northern Illinois University

Fall 2014 Update

The program will transition to using the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Exam as the NIU comprehensive exam beginning with the spring 2015 semester.

NIU Recently hired Natalie Maurin as a clinical coordinator in the rehabilitation counseling program. NIU now has four faculty associated with the program.
The rehabilitation counseling program is celebrating its 40th anniversary with a social for associated faculty, staff, and alumni following the colloquium speaker on October 24th. The program began in 1974 and was first accredited in 1980.

Deborah Becker, Associate Professor at Dartmouth Psychiatric Research Center, gave a presentation on October 24th titled "A working life for people with serious mental illness" at the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders Graduate Colloquium Seminar.

Approximately 100 people attended the free event, which was also open to the public with 2 CEUs for certified rehabilitation counselors.

Spring 2015 Update

The program now requires students to take the CRC Exam to fulfill the comprehension examination requirement. We're happy to report a 100% pass rate for NIU students on the March CRC Exam.

Northeastern Illinois University

Report Submitted by: No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: Northeastern Illinois University

Ohio University

Report Submitted by: Mona Robinson

Website: Ohio University

Fall 2014 Update

We have submitted our application to CORE-CACREP to convert our Rehabilitation Counseling program to Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling. Our name was officially changed through our university to Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling.

Dr. Andrew Byrne joined us during AY 2013-2014 and Dr. Chu-ling Lo joined us AY 2014-2015.

We hosted our first annual practicum and internship fair. It was well attended by our site supervisors and students. This allowed new students who will be enrolling in practicum and internship to interview with supervisors and find a site prior to enrolling in the classes.

We offered a Clinical Supervision and Ethics Workshop in April 2014. We offer trainings such as this to our site supervisors every year.

Spring 2015 Update

We are currently searching for another faculty member to start in the fall. We changed our program name to Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling. We submitted our self-study to CORE to convert to CLRC. Mona Robinson was elected as Chair of the Department of Counseling and Higher Education for a 3-year term beginning July 1 2015.
Southern Illinois University – Carbondale

**Report Submitted by:** Carl Flowers

**Website:** [Southern Illinois University-Carbondale](http://www.siu.edu)

**Fall 2014 Update**

Dr. Carl Flowers reported a new undergrad major, in Behavior Analysis and Therapy, is being added to our curriculum in Fall 2015. The Rehabilitation Services (undergrad major is being revamped), effective Fall 2015, and an undergraduate minor in substance abuse disorders (SUD) will be offered in Fall 2015.

**Spring 2015 Update**

No report submitted.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Report Submitted by:** No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

**Website:** [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](http://www.illinois.edu)

University of Wisconsin, Madison

**Report Submitted by:** No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

**Website:** [University of Wisconsin-Madison](http://www.wisc.edu)

University of Wisconsin, Stout

**Report Submitted by:** Debra Homa

**Website:** [University of Wisconsin-Stout](http://www.uwstout.edu)

**Fall 2014 Update**

As of this fall 2014, the department offers a new major (a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Rehabilitation). Colleen Etzbach, Rh.D., CRC, LCPC was hired as an Associate Professor.

**Spring 2015 Update**

No report submitted.

Western Michigan University

**Report Submitted by:** No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

**Website:** [Western Michigan University](http://www.wmich.edu)

Wilberforce University

**Report Submitted by:** No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

**Website:** [Wilberforce University](http://www.wilberforce.edu)
Wright State University

Report Submitted by: Stephen Fortson

Website: Wright State University

Fall 2014 Update

Ohio has approved the new Clinical Rehabilitation Counselor language put forth by CORE and CACREP that makes graduates eligible for LPC and they will be offering Sign Language Interpreting.

Spring 2015 Update

No report submitted.
Region 6 News

Region 6 Representative: Denise Catalano, Ph.D., CRC, University of North Texas

Arkansas State University

Report Submitted By: Sharon Davis

Website: Arkansas State University

Fall 2014 Update
A new faculty member, Dr. Shane Butler, was hired last year. He received his doctoral degree from University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and has an expertise in the area of Deafness. ASU is currently preparing for CORE reaccreditation.

Spring 2015 Update
No report submitted.

Arkansas Tech University

Report Submitted By: Dr. Penny Willmering

Website: Arkansas Tech University

Fall 2014 Update
Dr. Penny Willmering is now the RC Program Director. Dr. Lyman Harris, the previous director recently retired. The growth of the program is worth noting, having experienced a 150% growth rate since 2000. The program continues to be CORE accredited and attributes its increased growth to the importance of accreditation to applicants and their families.

Spring 2015 Update
No report submitted.

East Central University

Report Submitted By: Dr. Linda Massey

Website: East Central University

Fall 2014 Update
Dr. Linda Massey reported the name of the program has changed to “Clinical Rehabilitation and Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program and applied for dual accreditation through CORE and CACREP. We have been notified that CACREP has made the decision that our program meets the requirements to convert its status to a dually accredited CIRC and CMHC program. However, the CACREP Board of Directors’ will meet on January 9-11, 2015 to make the final decision. CORE also approved/recommended that we become dually accredited.

Spring 2015 Update
No report submitted.
Langston University

No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: Langston University

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center

Report Submitted by: Henry McCarthy Ph.D.

Website: Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center

Fall 2014 Update

LSUHSC is currently applying for the Dual Accreditation for the Conversion process with CORE and CACREP. Two new faculty have been hired - Dr. Adrianne Frischhertz, and Dr. George Hebert. A seminar (CEU) series was initiated this past summer and additional sessions will be held in the spring. LSUHSC hosted the Louisiana Rehabilitation Association (RSA) conference last year. LSUHSC is also collaborating with the University of North Orleans (UNO) through UNO’s Training, Resource and Assistive-technology Center (TRAC) program, a program that provides individuals with disabilities vocational and assistive technology assessments, and assistive technology/computer training. LSUHSC will be providing clinical (vocational) services in the near future through their own clinic.

Spring 2015 Update

Our Department was 1 of the first 2 programs given the new joint CORE/CACREP accreditation in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling.

Three of our Master’s students made presentations at an ARCA-sponsored session at ACA. Adeola Oshinubi and Gerquel Bowman (Class of 2016) from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans presented the products of their efforts to promote greater awareness of RC as a profession and their personal reflections on the heartfelt benefits they derived from participation in the Understanding Rehabilitation Counseling project.

They used a variety of creative communication/marketing strategies to spread the word about the RC profession at an array of community events to which they arranged to get themselves invited. These included: having an information booth at a wellness fair, making presentations to undergraduate classes at two universities, and participating in two walks sponsored by disability advocacy organizations, where they also distributed water bottles and snacks to which was attached a short list of RC-related websites and community resources.

Jessica Maxwell (Class of 2015) gave a presentation on her research on the nexus between yoga and rehabilitation counseling. The Department is moving on 6/1/15 to a new building on campus that has wonderful teaching and clinical facilities. The new street address is: 411 South Prieur Street. New Orleans, LA 70112.

Southern University

No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: Southern University
Stephen F. Austin State University

Report Submitted By: Alan Larson

Website: Stephen F. Austin State University

Fall 2014 Update

Alan Larson reported there are no changes or updates to the program. Yuleinys Castillo, PhD, CRC, LPC has joined our undergraduate rehabilitation services faculty. Each April we hold a rehabilitation counseling training conference offering between 8-10 CEUs.

Spring 2015 Update

No report submitted.

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center - School of Allied Health Sciences

No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

University of Arkansas - Fayetteville

No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: University of Arkansas-Fayetteville

University of Arkansas - Little Rock

Report Submitted By: Raymond Ortega

Website: University of Arkansas-Little Rock

Fall 2014 Update

Beginning in Fall 2014 program requirements were increased from 54 semester hours to 60 semester hours. At the beginning of the Fall 2014 term three additional faculty were hired – Jessica Hurley, Ph.D.; Abigail Akande, Ph.D.; and Euchay Horsman, Ph.D., making a total of eight faculty in the Rehabilitation Counseling program. As a result of the additional staffing, it is anticipated the student count will increase from 140 to 160.

Students will start being accepted in Summer term in addition to the Spring and Fall terms. Previously with the College of Education, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock has undergone a significant reorganization and the RC program is now part of the College of Education and Health Professions along with Social Work, Nursing, Speech and Audiology, Health Education, Rehabilitation of the Blind, Interpretation/ASL as well as the Teacher Education programs.
Two new faculty have joined UNT’s Department of Disability and Addiction Rehabilitation - Jessica Brooks, Ph.D., CRC (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison), and Rachita Sharma, MS, LPC, CRC (UTPA). A new program is being piloted (funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Minority Health Research and Education Grant program) to increase the number of Hispanic and African American students who obtain their master’s degree in Rehabilitation Counseling.

Community college students pursuing an Associate’s Degree in an allied health field will be provided a “map” of courses that will transfer into the Rehabilitation Studies Bachelor’s degree program. Eligible students can then enroll during their senior year in 4 graduate level classes that fulfill their undergraduate requirements; those 12 credit hours will then be transferred into their graduate degree plan. This creates an efficient pathway for students to achieve their associates, bachelor’s, and then master’s degree.

Current graduate students will assist incoming transfer students by developing an educational plan, identify relevant university support services, and provide case management services. UNT is also planning to develop a 60-credit hour Clinical Rehabilitation program tract and is currently preparing for reaccreditation as a 48-hour rehabilitation counseling program. The department is also now home to UNT’s new Collegiate Recovery Program. Funding was obtained to create the program through the Stacie Mathewson Foundation grant, Transforming Youth Recovery grant, and other private partnerships.

**Spring 2015 Update**

**The UNT Collegiate Recovery**
UNT received official recognition of the Collegiate Recovery Program (CRP) last fall. The CRP is housed within the Department of Disability and Addiction Rehabilitation. Its purpose is to support students with behavioral health and substance use disorders to successfully complete their college degree. It provides an empowering environment where students living in, or seeking, long-term recovery from substance use disorders, mental health and other behavioral health concerns can achieve their academic goals and have improved quality of life. We had our first cohort this spring with 8 students and we hope to double that number this fall. We received a $10,000 grant from the Stacie Mathewson Foundation to support the CRP. The “recovery nest” a residential hall wing this fall focused on recovery will open this fall.

**Tuesday Night Flight**
Tuesday Night Flight is an informal group sponsored by the department for UNT students who have self-identified as being on the Autism spectrum and who would like to have more social interaction and improve their social skills. The group has averaged 8 – 10 participants each week with 20 students currently enrolled. Two graduate students are leading the seminar and conducting research on the impact the program is having on the wellbeing, social engagement, and academic performance of the students.

**HOGG Foundation Grants**
Jessica Brooks received a HOGG Foundation Grant entitled “Self-Determination, Vocational Rehabilitation Engagement and Recovery from Consumer’s Perspective: A Mixed Methods Study”.

**University of North Texas**

**Report Submitted By**: Linda Holloway

**Website**: University of North Texas
Linda Holloway received a Recovery-To-Practice (RTP) Grant funded by the HOGG Foundation to provide RTP training to addiction counselors in Texas. The project will utilize a “train-the-trainer” model to provide face-to-face and web-based instruction to current Addiction counselors. We will develop a website with resources and support for an online learning community.

**Studies abroad to India**

Rachita Sharma led a group of rehabilitation studies and emergency management students to India over the winter break. The group visited several NGO’s that serve people with disabilities, including one prosthetic factory that makes inexpensive prosthetic legs.

**Paul Leung’s Retirement**

Dr. Paul Leung is retiring from UNT this May. We hosted a party honoring his years of service at the NCRE spring 2015 Conference in Newport Beach, CA. More than 75 friends and colleagues attended. Paul and his wife, Wendy, were the honorees and his brother and sister and their spouses also attended the event.

**University of Texas at El Paso**

*Report Submitted By:* Barbara Schoen

**Website:** [University of Texas at El Paso](http://www.utep.edu)

**Fall 2014 Update**

The Master of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) program at The University of Texas at El Paso has been recently approved for accreditation for eight years. Dr. Sánchez from the University of Wisconsin –Madison was hired as an Assistant Professor in the Fall of 2014. She received both her MEd in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling and her BA in Psychology from Florida Atlantic University (FAU). Dr. Sánchez is also a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC).

Dr. Kristin Kosyluk, PhD, CRC has also joined the UTEP MRC Program as a visiting Assistant Professor for the 2014-15 academic year. Dr. Kosyluk has a Bachelors of Science in Psychology from Pennsylvania State University, and earned her Masters of Science and Doctor of Philosophy from Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT).

In July 2014 the UTEP College of Health Sciences hosted the grand opening of the Rehabilitation Sciences Clinical Teaching Laboratory. The new clinical teaching facility will offer Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) employment services to individuals with disabilities by students of the MRC program. UTEP is an approved provider with the Division of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services - Division of Rehabilitation Services (DARS-DRS), a Texas state agency.

In October 2014 UTEP hosted the Second Annual Interdisciplinary Symposium: Defining the Future in Health Promotion and Disability Outreach. This symposium addressed both the University of Texas at El Paso and the National Library of Medicine’s mission to engage in interdisciplinary research focused on highlighting methods for improvements in the health of global and local communities. Over 30 students and faculty from the University’s six colleges presented information on their department or programs specific contributions toward improved health outcomes for marginalized populations including people with disabilities. This symposium was developed as part of a grant from the National Library of Medicine (NLM) Environmental Health Information Partnership (EnHIP) received by Dr. Barbara Schoen.

The UTEP’s MRC program is one of several universities collaborating with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Wisconsin-Stout’s Rehabilitation Research & Training Center: Evidence-Based Practice in Vocational
Rehabilitation (RRTC-EBP-VR) designed to generate knowledge and evidenced based vocational rehabilitation practices that improve employment rates, and quality of employment for persons with disabilities.

Spring 2015 Update

The Master of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) program at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) has experienced no changes since receiving full accreditation by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) in 2014.

Dr. Kristin Kosyluk, PhD, CRC has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling in the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences within the College of Health Sciences (CHS) beginning in the fall of 2015. Dr. Kosyluk first joined the UTEP MRC Program as a visiting assistant professor for the 2014-15 academic year. She has a Bachelor’s of Science in Psychology from Pennsylvania State University, and earned her Masters of Science and Doctor of Philosophy from Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). Her dissertation was a randomized controlled trial examining the impact of contact- and education-based anti-stigma interventions, relative to a control condition, on the stigma of mental illness and mental health treatment engagement among college students. She is both a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and a Rehabilitation Counseling Educator.

In July of 2014 the College of Health Sciences Rehabilitation Sciences Clinical Teaching Laboratory at the University of Texas at El Paso became operational. UTEP is an approved provider with the Division of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services - Division of Rehabilitation Services (DARS-DRS), a Texas state agency. This partnership enables UTEP’s professional staff and Master of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) graduate students, with appropriate supervision, to provide vocational rehabilitation services to clients receiving services from DARS-DRS. In just under one year of operation the clinic has provided services to over forty individuals with disabilities to assist them in obtaining gainful employment. Over ten students have completed their practicum or internships at the lab as well.

The University of Texas at El Paso Master of Rehabilitation Counseling Program is one of several universities collaborating with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Wisconsin-Stout’s Rehabilitation Research & Training Center: Evidence-Based Practice in Vocational Rehabilitation (RRTC-EBP VR) designed to generate knowledge and evidenced-based vocational rehabilitation practices that improve employment rates, and quality of employment for persons with disabilities.

Dr. Jennifer Sánchez (UTEP) in collaboration with Dr. Beatriz Araceli Diaz Torres (Universidad Autonoma de Cd. Juárez) was awarded $35,000 to investigate "Stress Coping, Health Behaviors, and Health-Related Quality of Life Among Mexican Migrant Women." The study will examine Mexican Migrant Women's self-reported efforts to manage stress and how cultural and contextual factors interact to affect their coping styles and health self-management. The study will be conducted both in El Paso (US) and Cd. Juárez (Mexico). The grant is funded through the Research Program on Migration and Health (PiMSA for its Spanish acronym: Programa de Investigación en Migracion y Salud). PiMSA was started by the Health Initiative of the Americas in partnership with the University of California and key institutions in Mexico and is unique in that it not only focuses on migration and health, but requires bi-national (US and Mexico) collaboration from qualified institutions, which includes UTEP.

Dr. Kristin Kosyluk was recently funded as Co-Principal Investigator on two grants. The first is an intramural grant funded by the Community-Academic Partnership Capacity-Building Program (CAP2) through the College of Health Sciences at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). The Principal Investigator (PI) of this grant is Dr. Eva Moya of UTEP’s Social Work program and this interdisciplinary effort aims to increase awareness of the impact of homelessness in El Paso, Texas and launch a Community Response based on a community-academic partnership between the Opportunity Center for the Homeless, The Paso del Norte Center of Hope, Villa Maria, and UTEPs College of Health Sciences (Departments of
Social Work and Rehabilitation Counseling). Among other efforts, as part of this project, Dr. Kosyluk will be spearheading the development of the El Paso-based Speakers’ Bureau for the Homeless.

The second is a grant from the Oklahoma City Department of Rehabilitation Services. The PI of this grant is Dr. Arvind Singhal of the Department of Communication at UTEP. This project aims to adopt a Positive Deviance approach to improve employment outcomes for individuals with psychiatric disabilities receiving services through the Oklahoma City Department of Rehabilitation Services.

**University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (formerly UTPA)**

**Report Submitted By:** Jerome Fischer

**Website:** University of Texas Pan American

**Fall 2014 Update**

No report submitted.

**Spring 2015 Update**

The university name will be changing to UT Rio Grande Valley, UTRGV and we are the School of Rehabilitation. We are having a local Rehabilitation Conference on June 10th and offering CRC and LPC CEUs! We are still looking to fill two open rank faculty positions that are tenure tenure-track. I nominated Dr. Noel Ysasi for the NCRE 2015 Doctoral Student of the Year Award and Dr. Irmo Marini nominated Noel for the ARCA 2015 Doctoral Student of the Year Award and he was awarded both.

**University of Texas, Southwestern School of Health Professionals**

**Report Submitted By:** Gerald Casenave and Rob Drake

**Website:** University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

**Fall 2014 Update**

Karen Brewer-Mixter, Ph.D. joined the faculty May 2014; she specializes in the area of cognitive rehabilitation. Faculty have conducted two training programs regarding the DSM-5 for rehabilitation counselors with the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services agency (DARS).

**Spring 2015 Update**

Our program will be up for CORE reaccreditation in 2016, so we are in the process of creating our electronic self-study document with an ultimate goal of applying for clinical rehabilitation counseling dual accreditation. We have hired two new faculty members. One has worked in PM&R and has acted as an internship supervisor for many of our students over the years. The other new faculty member is a graduate of our program. Our curriculum committee is currently developing additional course recommendations to prepare for an upcoming change in academic coursework requirements for our state LPC board.
Region 7 News

Region 7 Representative: Matt Bruinekool, Ed.D., CRC, Drake University

Drake University

Report Submitted by: Robert Stensrud

Website: Drake University

Fall 2014 Update

Awarded RSA Long Term Training Grant. The 60-credit hour rehabilitation program emphasizes field-based experiences, with six courses devoted to hands-on learning. The program can be completed in two and a half years. The National Rehabilitation Institute was established at Drake in 1976. The Institute conducts research, manages federal research and training grants, and provides pre-service and in-service training in the areas of rehabilitation counseling, placement, and leadership.

Spring 2015 Update

Changes to our program (certificates, credentials offered etc.): Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling

Conferences that were conducted within our program/region are IRA, and NRA.

Emporia State University

Report Submitted by: Katrina Miller

Website: Emporia State University

Fall 2014 Update

Awarded RSA Long Term Training Grant. Developed a Clinical Counseling master’s degree program (60 credit hours). Students may select one or more of three concentrations: Addictions, Mental Health, or Rehabilitation. A 48-credit hour, online Master’s degree in Rehabilitation Counseling is now available at ESU. Graduating students will be eligible to sit for the CRC exam. Lastly, the bachelor’s degree in Rehabilitation Services Education has been adjusted from a 124-credit hour degree to a 120-credit hour degree as a response to the Regents’ call for a streamlined program and to help establish a venue for a 2+3 program with local community colleges.

Spring 2015 Update

We are now offering a 48 credit hour, distance-education master’s degree in RC to reach students in rural areas who are interested in public service. The program is fully CORE-accredited; students are eligible for RSA scholarships and the CRC exam. For students desiring Kansas State counseling licensure, there is a 60 credit-hour option on campus for the master’s degree in Clinical Counseling. Concentrations in Rehabilitation, Addictions, and Mental Health are proposed and awaiting approval from the Regents.

Dr. Damara Paris joined us as an Assistant Professor of Counselor Education in January 2015. She teaches primarily online and serves as director of our LTT grant, Get the Heartland Working! With Dr. Michael Richard retiring in May, we are currently accepting applications for a student-focused assistant professor with experience in the public program, to teach in rehabilitation at the undergraduate and graduate levels, both online and in the classroom.
With our distance education option, students from across the nation, particularly those in rural areas, can work toward a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling while living and maintaining employment in their home communities. Clinical supervision is conducted in the home community as well, via the use of computer cameras in real-time. Additionally, Dr. Miller and Dr. Paris both use sign language, which allows for students who are deaf and hard of hearing to communicate directly with professors.

Interhab’s Power UP! Conference was held at Topeka during the third week of October, at Topeka. The Kansas Counseling Association Spring Convention was conducted March 6-8, at Wichita. Counselor education faculty members were present at both.

Following a successful CORE reaccreditation visit in Spring 2014, in Fall the program received close to $1 million in RSA funding to train rehabilitation counselors in response to the critical shortage of qualified personnel in the state. Graduates will work in partnership with persons with disabilities at the state and community levels. Additionally, 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of Rehabilitation Education Programs at Emporia State University. Established in 1966 by Dr. Amos Sales, ours is the only rehabilitation counseling program in the state of Kansas.

Dr. Marvin Kuehn, who was quite active in establishing program accreditation and credentialing for rehabilitation counselors at the national level, presided over the program for 30 of our 50 years. Emporia State University has over 500 rehabilitation counseling alums, who have worked with persons with disabilities across the nation. Look for news of a celebration on campus in October 2016!

This semester, Dr. Katrina Miller, current program director, was appointed to the Academic Advisory Committee of IARP as a result of a substantial increase in student membership in the organization; Dr. Damara Paris was recently elected Treasurer of the Board of ADARA: Professionals Networking for Excellence in Service to Persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Questions about our programs or seeking opportunities for collaboration? Contact Katrina Miller at 1-620-341-5231 or kmille12@empora.edu

Maryville University of St Louis

Report Submitted by: Michael Kiener

Website: Maryville University of Saint Louis

Fall 2014 Update

This is a 48 credit hour CORE accredited program. The Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling program provides the educational preparation for Missouri licensing as a Professional Counselor (LPC) and national certification as a Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC). Board certified music therapists may enter the Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling program and complete the music therapy specialization area. In addition, the program offers The Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study program offers advanced education in counseling to the person who has a counseling or related master’s degree. This certificate provides specific knowledge and skills relevant to rehabilitation counseling. Students take 24 credit hours to complete the Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Rehabilitation.

Spring 2015 Update

Maryville University and the Missouri Rehabilitation Association Eastern Chapter have partnered and presented or will present the following trainings: Substance Abuse & Addiction, Six Non-Medication Strategies to work with People who have Depression, Innovation in Vocational Rehabilitation: Marketing VR, An Introduction to Music Therapy: Practical Applications for Rehabilitation Counselors Benefits Specialists Training.
**Fall 2014 Update**

Awarded RSA Long Term Training Grant. The Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling Program is a 60-hour Master’s degree accredited by both CORE and CACREP. The program can be completed in 6 semesters. The University of Iowa Rehabilitation Counselor Education Program is a 90 hours PhD degree that can be completed in 4 years. The PhD program is being reorganized to meet CACREP standards for accreditation at the PhD level.

**Spring 2015 Update**

The University of Iowa Master’s in Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling and the PhD in Rehabilitation Counselor Education are looking toward exciting changes.

After many years of leadership to the program and profession, Dr. Vilia Tarvydas is retiring this July. Her departure will be a loss to the Program. However, her retirement will not change the number of admission and matriculation of students seeking the Master’s degree. The Masters in Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling Program, which was recently awarded an RSA LTTG, completed the CORE review process for accreditation this Spring and we are looking forward to a CACREP re-review in 2017 in order that the Program remain dually accredited by CORE and CACREP at the Master's level.

The Master’s Program recently reviewed the employment of graduates. Although many students enter the program with the career goal of mental health practice, the majority of recent graduates, both RSA and non-RSA scholars, chose employment with state VR services or other "qualifying "employment upon graduation. After 5 years, approximately 1/2 of graduates are employed as mental health service providers (private practice, Veteran' Administration, public agency) and approximately 1/3 obtain a mental health license.

The Doctoral Program in Rehabilitation Counselor Education is experiencing an important change. The doctoral program in Rehabilitation Counselor Education is being closely aligned with the existing doctoral CACREP accredited program in Counselor Education and Supervision. We anticipate a successful application to CACREP to allow the current faculty and students of the Rehabilitation Counselor Education doctoral program to partner with the Counselor Education and Supervision faculty to build a larger and stronger doctoral program that offers a CACREP accredited PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision with a specialization in Rehabilitation Counselor Education beginning in 2015-2016 academic year. Candidates in the Program will receive a strong background in research design and statistical methods, teaching in higher education, consultation, and counselor supervision. It is faculty's commitment that graduates will have a strong line of research and will have made multiple contributions to the discipline of rehabilitation counselor education prior to graduation.
Region 8 News

Region 8 Representative: Jill Beyzak Ph.D., CRC, University of Northern Colorado

Montana State University – Billings

Report Submitted by: Fall Update by Terry L. Blackwell and Spring Update by Matthew E. Sprong.

Website: Montana State University-Billings

Fall 2014 Update

The Master of Science in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling program at MSU - Billings will be submitting their CORE/CACREP dual accreditation self-study for the February 2015 review cycle.

In addition, the program has added a full-time faculty, Dr. Matthew Sprong, who started in the fall semester. Dr. Sprong was hired as tenured-track, Assistant Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation and Human Services at MSU – Billings. He teaches courses in the Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Graduate Program. He earned a doctorate in Rehabilitation from Southern Illinois University - Carbondale. He has various experiences working as a program evaluator at a community rehabilitation program, a private consultant in a variety of forensic rehabilitation capacities, life-skills instructor for adolescents in the DCFS Foster Care system, and a residential substance abuse counselor. His research interests include variables that influence recommendations for rehabilitation services, disability attitudes, and post-secondary accommodations.

Spring 2015 Update

The Master of Science in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling (MSCRMHC) program is fully accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE). Beginning in 2015 the program started completion of application and self-study materials for dual accreditation (Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling) by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

South Dakota State University

Report Submitted by: Alan Davis

Website: South Dakota State University

Fall 2014 Update

No report submitted.

Spring 2015 Update

Alan Davis reported there are no changes to the current program. The Annual South Dakota Rehab Action Conference was held in the Fall. Collaboration with University of South Dakota in publication and grant writing. We have just completed our CORE accreditation site visit and are awaiting the report.
University of North Dakota

Report Submitted by: David Perry
Website: University of North Dakota

Spring 2015 Update

We are applying for accreditation of our undergrad program. We have two new faculty: Dr. KatySue Tillman and Dr. Ashley Hutchison. We are hoping to recruit a new position with specialization in rehab and addiction counseling.

University of Northern Colorado

Report Submitted by: Jill Bezyak
Website: University of Northern Colorado

Fall 2014 Update

The University of Northern Colorado continues to experience growth in the Master’s Program in Rehabilitation Counseling and the undergraduate program in Human Services. Dr. Jill Bezyak, Associate Professor at UNC, continues to serve as the PI for the Rocky Mountain ADA Center and recently began work on the ADA PARC project, which is a collaborative project involving several of the regional ADA Centers across the nation.

Spring 2015 Update

Have there been any changes to your program (certificates, credentials offered etc.)?

We are now offering two options for completion of the Master’s Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, 48 or 60 credit hours. This will provide more flexibility and cost savings for incoming students.

Are there any collaborations among universities that may be of interest? Jill Bezyak continues collaboration with the Rocky Mountain ADA Center to conduct research on the implementation of the ADA, and several other universities in the region participate in these activities.

Utah State University

Report Submitted by: Jared Schultz
Website: Utah State University

Fall 2014 Update

Utah State is currently searching for a strong doctoral student who has an interest in transition services. The department houses the Institute of Interdisciplinary Transition Services, and this doctoral student will have extensive opportunities to work in the area of transition, including the school systems and other transition services across the state. The student position will be funded by the department.

Dr. Jared Schultz is currently serving as the Associate Dean of Clinical Education and Community Outreach. This is a part-time position, and as a result, he is retaining the program director position. In the new position, Dr. Schultz is chairing the advancement committee, raising money for a new clinical services building in the college, and working to bring over 30 clinics and faculty labs in the college together to practice in an interdisciplinary manner.

Spring 2015 Update

No report submitted.
Region 9 News

Region 9 Representative: Aisha Shamburger Rousseau, Ph.D., CRC, Assistant Professor, Disability & Psychoeducational Studies, The University of Arizona

California State University, Fresno

Report Submitted by: Jenelle Pitt

Website: California State University, Fresno

Fall 2014 Update

California State University, Fresno Master's Rehabilitation Counseling Program is proud to welcome our two newest full-time faculty members, Dr. Alicia Brown and Dr. Steve Koobatian. Dr. Brown’s research interests consists of a) treatment modalities for substance abuse and dual diagnosed clients, b) integration of family systems approach into the counseling process, and c) cultural competency among counselors.

Dr. Koobatian's research interests consists of a) forensics in vocational rehabilitation, b) disability management in industry, c) vocational rehabilitation transitional services and strategies for high school students with disabilities, and d) rehabilitation counselor preparation.

The program is also pleased to announce that our Rehabilitation Long-Term Training Grant CFDA 84.129B entitled, "Increasing the Supply of Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors in the Great Central Valley and Beyond," was funded recently by Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education. Lastly, the program continues to work closely with its community partners as we gear up for our first advisory board meeting of the 2014-2015 academic year.

Spring 2015 Update

On October 24, 2014, a mental health conference was sponsored by the Kremen School of Education and Human Development (KSOEHD) at CSU, Fresno where Dr. Koobatian offered a peer-reviewed presentation, which focused on implementation of a counseling model to assist with discovering vocational interests of baby boomers and veterans.

On February 28, 2015, KSOEHD at CSU, Fresno hosted its second mental health conference with an emphasis on intersectionality and inequities. Dr. Brown offered a peer-reviewed presentation, which focused on post-secondary services to African-American students with disabilities. The October and February conferences were well attended and included students, faculty, staff, administrators, community members, and national speakers. We are extremely proud of Drs. Brown and Koobatian, as the conference trainings help to support the university's high-profile student success initiatives.

On March 26-March 28, 2015, the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) held its 2015 Diversity, Learning, and Student Success Conference in San Diego, CA. More than 700 representatives from institutions throughout the nation gathered to discuss AAC&U’s Making Excellence Inclusive (MEI) initiative, and how the framework could be leveraged to maximize student success through high-impact practices.

Twelve representatives from CSU, Fresno attended the conference. Dr. Jenelle Pitt (CSU, Fresno), Dr. Dawn Lewis (CSU, Fresno), and President Cynthia Teniente-Matson (Texas A&M University-San Antonio) provided a peer-reviewed presentation under Theme 1, Diversity and Inclusive Excellence as an Institutional Value System, which focused on issues related to campus climate, shared governance, consensus-building, and diversity plan development, implementation,
and evaluation designed to support innovative teaching practices that promote student success and cultural competence.

The three full-time program faculty at CSU, Fresno are actively engaged in conference participation in our region and beyond.

CSU, Fresno is partnering with the San Joaquin Valley District Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) to develop and implement RSA Scholar Workshops. The two-hour sessions will be offered at least once a semester, and will focus on a variety of practices and procedures specific to DOR designed to further equip RSA Scholars from CSU, Fresno with setting specific knowledge and skills to facilitate their entry into and retention within state vocational rehabilitation agencies upon graduation. The first workshop will be held in May 2015.

California State University, Los Angeles

Report Submitted by: No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: California State University, Los Angeles

California State University, Sacramento

Report Submitted by: Heather Brostrand

Website: California State University, Sacramento

Fall 2014 Update

After 38 years as our coordinator, Guy Deaner is retiring in May 2015. We will greatly miss his dedication, enthusiasm and passion for vocational rehabilitation. We wish him many cool and sunny days on the golf course!

Heather Brostrand is our new faculty member. She is a CSU Rehabilitation Counseling alumna and got her PhD at SIUC. Having also worked for the Department of Rehabilitation in California, she brings a wealth of practical, professional, and academic experience to the campus. Heather is looking forward to working with the five other graduate rehabilitation programs in California, to continue providing outstanding graduate education to rehabilitation professionals in California.

The VR program at CSUS is participating in the DOR PROMISE Grant, providing direct transitional counseling services to teenagers with disabilities in our local school districts. We will be transforming the MS program into Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling with an LPCC track and CORE/CACREP accreditation.

Heather and Guy are both looking forward to seeing everyone at the Spring NCRE conference in Newport Beach. Guy can be reached at DeanerG@CSUS.edu and Heather can be reached at Brostrand@CSUS.edu.

Spring 2015 Update

No report submitted.
California State University, San Bernardino

**Report Submitted by:** Connie McReynolds

**Website:** [California State University, San Bernardino](http://www.csusb.edu)

### Fall 2014 Update

California State University, San Bernardino is in the process of hiring for a new faculty member, the posting is Open Rank. CSUSB’s rehabilitation counseling program has a thriving NRCA Student Chapter that provides students with peer support, advocacy, workshops and networking. Meetings are held on a quarterly basis during the academic year. The rehabilitation program is in its 5th year of a Long Term Training grant and we have received notification of being awarded a second 5-year Long Term Training grant.

The rehabilitation counseling program is closely affiliated with the Institute for Research, Assessment & Professional Development. The Institute provides clinical experiences for comprehensive vocational evaluation, situational assessments for clients of the Department of Rehabilitation. Also in its fourth year of operation, the CSUSB neurofeedback program offered through the Institute has helped individuals ranging from children with serious attention disorders to people with phobias to military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder improve their quality of life. Rehabilitation Counseling students are provided clinical experiences with the neurofeedback program. The Institute has provided opportunities for RC students to be engaged with veteran’s service agencies, the CSUSB Vet Success Center and regional congressional representatives in engaging in outreach activities with veterans.

In addition, CSUSB is a participant in the CaPROMISE $50 million grant award, which will provide CSUSB students with, paid internship experiences with local school districts working with transition aged youth.

### Spring 2015 Update

No report submitted.

San Diego State University

**Report Submitted by:** Charles Edmund Degeneffe

**Website:** [San Diego State University](http://www.sdsu.edu)

### Fall 2014 Update

The San Diego State University Rehabilitation Counseling Program (RCP) went through a Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) re-accreditation process. CORE granted the RCP a full 8 years of re-accreditation. The RCP maintains both distance and on-campus programs. The distance program is transitioning from CSPD funding and will be recruiting its next cohort for Fall 2015 admission.

The RCP was awarded a $1,000,000 Long-Term Training Grant (P.I., Dr. Charles Edmund Degeneffe) from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) titled, “Rehabilitation Counseling in the Pacific: Pursuing Careers in the State/Federal Vocational Rehabilitation System.” The project will provide funding to approximately 16 in-state students (approximately 20 in year 1) and 4 out-state students (in years 2-5). Out of state students will be recruited from Region IX areas not supported by a Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling academic program, including Nevada, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project will also feature annual San Diego-based trainings by Denise Bissonnette.
The RCP received a $750,000 Long-Term Training Grant (P.I., Dr. Marjorie Olney) from RSA titled, “Psychiatric Rehabilitation Concentration and Certificate Program.” The funds will be used to support students who will be part of a concentration that combines rehabilitation with clinical mental health training. Graduates with this concentration will be eligible to sit for both the CRC and California licensure exams. The new concentration is uniquely positioned to apply for CORE-CACREP Clinical Rehabilitation Counselor accreditation. The RCP plans on applying for the accreditation in February 2015.

Spring 2015 Update

Beginning in Fall of 2015, we will institute a Concentration in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

Mark Tucker, PhD, joined the Tenure-track faculty in September 2014! We’re offering our MS in Rehabilitation Counseling in a 100% online format. Recruiting now for Fall 2015 – applications are open until August 1, 2015.

The SDSU Interwork Institute conducted a training workshop on the PROMISE project for rehabilitation professionals from Hong Kong Fuhong Society, a nongovernmental organization that provides community living and vocational rehabilitation services to people with intellectual and psychiatric disabilities in Hong Kong.

The 8th annual VR Program Evaluation and Quality Assurance Conference will take place in San Diego on September 9th and 10th, 2015 at the Marriott Mission Valley. The event typically brings about 150 participants, mostly individuals who are involved in program evaluation, quality assurance, and management efforts in VR agencies nationwide.

Noted job development authority, Denise Bissonnette, will be giving a two day training in San Diego’s Old Town District with a focus on the “Top 12 Employment Tools” on May 7, 2015 and “Fifteen Essentials for the Ultimate Employment Toolkit” on May 8, 2015. RCP students, 30 staff members from the California Department of Rehabilitation, and other job development and placement professionals throughout California and other states, will attend the training. For the next five years, Denise will be giving San Diego-based workshops as part of Dr. Charles Edmund Degeneffe’s “Rehabilitation Counseling in the Pacific” Long-Term Training Grant program.

SDSU is working with UC Berkeley and CSU Fullerton to offer a new credit-bearing course to undergraduate and graduate college students with disabilities to improve their employment options after college. Bridging the Gap from College to Career is funded by the Kessler Foundation Signature Employment Grant. We are partnering with the Business Leadership Network, CA Department of Rehabilitation, and independent living centers to offer internships, mentorship, and support to pursue career goals. More info at: http://interwork.sdsu.edu/c2c/

Our program was ranked in the top 10 in US News and World Report, 2015.
San Francisco State University

Report Submitted by: Julie Chronister

Website: San Francisco State University

Fall 2014 Update
San Francisco State University was awarded the U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitation Master’s Degree Long-Term Training Grant (PI: Julie Chronister; $1 million / 5 years).

Spring 2015 Update
No report submitted.

University of Arizona

Report Submitted by: Philip Johnson

Website: University of Arizona

Fall 2014 Update
The University of Arizona’s Counseling Program is continuing to pursue dual CORE-CACREP program accreditation. The TACE Fall Institute was held September 18-19, 2014, in Flagstaff Arizona.

In addition, the Rehabilitation and Mental Health emphasis of the Counseling Program was recently awarded the following grants:

1. Arizona State RSA Rehabilitation Training Intergovernmental Service Agreement (PI: Philip Johnson; $3 million / 5 years);

2. The U.S. Department of Education Long-Term Training Grant for Persons with Visual Impairment entitled “Preparation of Rehabilitation Counselors for People with Visual Impairments” (PI: Chih-Chin Chou; $750k / 5 years).

3. The U.S. Department of Education Long-Term Training Grant for Persons with Mental Illness entitled “Master’s Rehabilitation Counseling for People who are Mentally Ill” (PI: Chih-Chin Chou; $750k / 5 years).

4. The U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitation Master’s Degree Long-Term Training Grant (PI: Chih-Chin Chou; $1 million / 5 years).


Spring 2015 Update
Dr. Chih-Chin Chou was awarded three RSA 5-year training grants. An Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration (AzRSA) – University of Arizona Interagency Service Agreement (ISA) was renewed for 5 more years. This ISA provides tuition and faculty funding for implementing a degree sequence of study (MA in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling) for AzRSA employees. The ISA also provides tuition and faculty funding to deliver CSPD coursework to AzRSA employees.
Region 10 News

Region 10 Representative

Elizabeth Boland, Ph.D., CRC

Associate Professor & Chair, Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling, Western Washington University

Portland State University

Report Submitted By: Tina Anctil

Website: Portland State University

Fall 2014 Update

- PSU’s Department of Counselor Education co-hosted the Oregon Counseling Association annual conference at PSU in October 2014.
- Name changed to Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling Program in 2014.
- Submitting CORE/CACREP dual accreditation self-study in February 2015.
- Continuing to accept admission to CRC-R Post-Master’s Certificate of Completion Program
- In our 5th year of the RSA Long-Term Training grant
- Continue to have three full cohorts, with 38 full time enrolled students
- We are recruiting applications for Fall 2015 (applications due online February 1, 2015)

Spring 2015 Update

In our Continuing Education Behavioral Healthcare Series, we are offering a new course of particular interest to CRCs and rehabilitation counseling students Understanding the History, Nature, Assessment, and Treatment of Pain With Kern Olson, Fri 4-7pm May 15, 29 and Fri 4-8pm Jun 5, 2015.

Region X continues to support each other’s RSA Long-term Training applications through letters of support and grant writing discussions.

University of Idaho

Report Submitted By: Bryan Austin

Website: University of Idaho

Fall 2014 Update

The U of I offers a M.Ed. in Rehabilitation Counseling and Human Services (RCHS). A new master’s degree student cohort started this past Summer 2014 for both Boise and Coeur d’ Alene campuses and are at student capacity. The CRCC has recently approved Category R Advanced Graduate Certificate and is now being offered by the program. The National Rehabilitation Association – Idaho Chapter annual professional conference was held in July 2014 in McCall, Idaho.

Dr. Susan Stuntzner from the program presented, “Rehabilitation Counseling: A Gateway to Healing and Resilience”, as the keynote speaker at the conference. Mutual collaboration continues with the program and Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation’s provision of monthly one-hour professional development training luncheons offered to IDVR, ICBVI, and related rehabilitation agency staff.
The Idaho Partnerships Conference on Human Services was held in Boise in October 2014. This conference focuses on training to human service professionals, parents, self-advocates and community members who serve and support people with disabilities and their families.

U of I’s RCHS program recently graduated a cohort of students this past Spring/Summer 2014.

- Several Master’s students passed the CRC exam as their comprehensive exam or oral exam to graduate from the program. Students and the program are meeting the need for open VR counselor positions within IDVR as many students have been hired as full-time counseling professionals.

- Students are also successfully passing the NCE exam, the State Licensure Exam in Idaho. One recent graduate completed his internship in Cuzco, Peru at Manos Unidas, a non-profit agency that serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. There also continues to be a track record of program graduates going on to obtain their LPCs in the state of Idaho and securing job positions within local community mental health agencies.

Spring 2015 Update

The U of I offers a 60-credit semester hour Master’s of Education (M.Ed.) or Master’s of Science (M.S. - required thesis) degree program in Rehabilitation Counseling and Human Services (RCHS). The program is located on two campus locations: Boise and Coeur d’ Alene. The program is currently recruiting for new master’s students to start Summer 2016. Early applications are encouraged. Category R Advanced Graduate Certificate approved by CRCC continues to be offered by the program. Graduates are eligible to obtain their CRC and LPC in the State of Idaho.

No new faculty have joined the RCHS program. However, the program is currently seeking to hire an applicant pool that can serve as adjunct faculty to help meet future course delivery and supervision needs for the program.

The 2015 Idaho National Rehabilitation Association is holding their annual conference in Boise, Idaho on July 23 and 24. Attendance to this conference may be an opportunity to broaden professional networks across the Northwest (Region X) and for professional development. Highly regarded speakers attend the conference and present on contemporary issues in vocational rehabilitation. This year’s topics include: cooperative relationships between agencies, personality disorders, and ethics. Conference trainings are approved for CRC CEUs.

The Idaho Counseling Association (ICA) held their annual professional conference in Pocatello, Idaho, this past January 28-31 bringing together faculty, students, and practitioners. The RCHS program/Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation’s provision of monthly one-hour professional development training luncheons offered to IDVR, Idaho Commission of the Blind and Visually Impaired, and related rehabilitation agency staff continues to help meet rehabilitation professionals professional development needs; Most recent topics included: LGBTQ and mental health, professional-technical education and transition services.

Scholarly collaboration continues between RCHS program faculty, students and faculty from rehabilitation counseling programs from other universities. This type of collaboration has generated great professional and networking opportunities for students and faculty. Examples of collaborative scholarly efforts have also resulted in new knowledge of vocational rehabilitation services and practices to enhance rehabilitation counselor professional development.

The RCHS program’s rank increased 37 spots from 90th in 2013 to 53rd in the new 2016 U.S. News and World Report Best Graduates Schools ranking. This is a significant accomplishment and demonstrates the great progress the program, faculty, and students have made. The program again submitted a proposal for the RSA Long-term Training grant this past March. If awarded, the grant will add visibility of the program and continue its positive development and impact as well.
as further help to meet the public VR program’s need for highly qualified rehabilitation professionals. Again this year, one master’s student is co-presenting at the poster session with RCHS program faculty, “Utilization of Interviewing: An Assessment Tool to Enhance Vocational Rehabilitation Service Delivery”, making it two years in a row a master’s student has presented with faculty at the annual Spring NCRE conference.

University of Washington

Report Submitted By: No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: University of Washington

Western Oregon University

Report Submitted By: Chunfang Ni

Website: Western Oregon University

Fall 2014 Update

• Added Mental Health Counseling track to the program in fall 2014

• Program name changed from Rehabilitation Counselor Education to Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling

• Submitted CORE/CACREP dual accreditation self-study in September 2014

• Received RSA long term training grant for 2014-2019

• Chungfan Ni has replaced Julia Smith as the program coordinator

• Offered 3 CEU Ethics training during the RMHC program’s 40th anniversary on 09/19/2014. The topics included: Ethics and Dual Relationship, Ethics and Self-Care, Ethics and Disaster Preparedness.

• We accepted 5 qualified RCD applicants including 2 Deaf/Blind, 1 Deaf, and 2 hearing students who are all fluent in ASL

Western Washington University

Report Submitted By: No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: Western Washington University
International News

Canada: University of Calgary

Report Submitted By: No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: University of Calgary

Australia: University of Sydney

Report Submitted By: No Fall/Spring reports submitted.

Website: University of Sydney
A Message from 2013-2015 Student Representative, Trent Landon

With the conclusion of the 2015 spring conference, my term as the Student Representative to the NCRE board came to a close. This past conference, we had 184 students attend and students have become a vital part of the conferences. Student volunteers are helping more and more in the conference sessions, which helps to ensure the conference runs smoothly.

The Scientific Poster Presentation Session continues to grow and we had 96 presentations with the majority of these being Graduate and Doctoral Students. NCRE has adopted a new protocol for creating scientific posters, which is helping to ensure a higher level of professionalism within the Poster Session and students have responded very well; I think this was one of the best poster sessions ever, both in terms of quality and content.

A growing session designed for students is the Informational Meeting for Students Interested in Doctoral Study and this year we had eight universities participate with and over twenty students attending. This became a great platform for Graduate students to gather information on the potential funding, rigor, and overall fit of a PhD program for them. I would love to see this continue to grow; yet better designed around student need and input. If you attended, we’d love to hear your feedback on how this session went so we can improve and plan better.

Additionally, the 2014 fall conference had a strong contingent of students, as 51 students were able to attend. Part of this conference includes the selection of the Dr. Ted Daniels Scholarship Award, and the number of applicants for this year’s scholarship greatly exceeded last year’s applicant pool. I believe this reflects both a strong interest by students to attend the fall conference, but also the increased communication efforts by the Chair of The Council on Diversity and Equity, board members, and the administrative office to publicize this unique funding opportunity via the website, listserv, Facebook page and through other university channels.

A new scholarship award has been established in honor of NCRE Past President Dr. William Downey (2008-2009). It is being spearheaded by NCRE with assistance from Dr. Downey’s colleagues at The University of Arizona and support from the NCRE Past Presidents. Amos Sales, NCRE Past President (2000-2001) announced the scholarship award during the Awards Luncheon at the spring conference. The scholarship will be associated with the Spring Call for Scientific Poster Proposals. The administrative office will send a message via the listserv, and share on the website once the details have been finalized.

While both conferences have a student social and networking reception, part of what makes the student socials such a great success is the direct participation of the board members. The student social attendance at the 2015 spring conference was impressive, and despite some initial bumps in terms of seating and overall arrangements, I feel this was one of the best student socials. None of this would be possible without the collective efforts of the Board and Administrative Office, and I greatly appreciate their support and efforts.

I encourage all students to visit the website for more information on the council’s and how they can get involved at this link: http://www.ncre.org/councils.html

Lastly, the call for the new Student Representative to the board was announced and subsequent elections were held. With seven original applicants to the position, I think this is a strong demonstration of the desire many of our students have to be involved and helps validate the original decision of the board to create a student representative position.
The new student representative, Annemarie Connor, was able to introduce herself during the student social at the 2015 spring conference. I encourage students to contact her with any questions or concerns you may have. Annemarie’s contact information is available on the website at this link: http://www.ncre.org/board.html

The board values the input from the Student Representative and many changes to the conference formats have been a direct result of student input. I wish Annemarie nothing but the best moving forward in her new position, and encourage all students to be invested and involved. Thanks to all of you for your support over the last two years and I look forward to maintaining my commitment to NCRE in other ways.
A Message from 2015-2017 Student Representative, Annemarie Connor

Thank you for this opportunity to serve as your student representative. As a mature student coming from 15 years of practice as an occupational therapist, I hope to bring my clinical experience not only to my scholarship and research interests but also to my service of the NCRE membership. As a fledging rehabilitation counselor and a seasoned therapist, I hope to serve in a capacity that promotes strong professional identity among students and increased awareness of rehabilitation counseling among related professions.

Let us carefully consider the invaluable member benefit of relationships as we weigh the costs of membership fees, travel expenses, and time expenditures. When we remember the stories shared by past and present NCRE presidents, let us remember that these relationships often began in university life but were sustained throughout professional careers and even into retirement. My sincere hope is that our student membership will not only grow but also, more importantly, sustain long-term relationships as we work together to shape our professional identity and promote the highest quality services for persons with disabilities.

As I begin my 2-year term as your student representative, I assure you that I start from a solid foundation built through the skilled work of our outgoing student representative, Trent Landon.

Please reach out via email connora1@msu.edu and at conferences so that we can collaborate on the many decisions involved in keeping our professional organization relevant and user-friendly to students. I look forward to productive dialogue around your questions, comments, suggestions, likes and dislikes, but most fundamentally, I value the relationships we will build as students, counselors, educators, and the future of NCRE.
Commissioner LaBreck

Although Commissioner Janet LaBreck lost her vision by the age of ten, she has never let her disability get in the way of her dreams.

In 2007, after more than 20 years as an advocate for the blind community, LaBreck was appointed Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind by Governor Deval Patrick.

As an ambassador for more than 30,000 legally blind residents, LaBreck has organized campaigns that have effectively increased employment opportunities for the blind. There is no better testament to her profound influence than the Commission’s award-winning internship program which is being replicated throughout the country.

Commissioner LaBreck has an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the New England College of Optometry, a Masters of Education degree from Springfield College and Bachelor of Arts in Human Services from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

In August of 2013, the United States Senate confirmed Commissioner LaBreck as the Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) within the United States Department of Education.

In 2013, the Urban League of Springfield selected Commissioner LaBreck as their Urban League 2013 Community Builder Award Recipient, as a result of her exemplary leadership and commitment to build strong and vibrant communities.

In 2013, President Barack Obama announced some key administration posts, including his intent to nominate Janet L. LaBreck as Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) within the United States Department of Education.

In 2012, Commissioner LaBreck was recognized by Healing Winds, the Lanesboro, MA-based American Indian cultural and educational non-profit organization as the 2012 Rock, Rattle & Drum honoree.

In 2011, Commissioner LaBreck was the recipient of the “Profiles in Vision” award, given to her by the New England College of Optometry for her pioneering efforts and extensive involvement in the launching of the New England Eye On-Sight Mobile Eye Clinic.

In 2010, she was presented with the Heroes Among Us Award by the Boston Celtics and the Massachusetts State Lottery.

In 2008, New England College of Optometry selected her to deliver the first commencement address in the history of the college to be delivered by a person who is blind.
Fall 2014 Invited Speaker Biography

Dr. Alan Bruce

CEO & Director, Universal Learning Systems

Dr. Bruce is a sociologist who undertook his academic studies in Los Angeles, Galway, Amsterdam, and Hull. He has lectured in universities in France, England and Ireland and worked in policy research for the European Commission in Brussels. In Ireland he worked for the government agency responsible for disability policy and was responsible for the education of specialists working in vocational rehabilitation in collaboration with a number of Irish universities.

He collaborates with various universities in the United States in research and program development. He is a member of the Graduate Faculty in the Department of Counseling Psychology, Education and Research in the University of Memphis. He teaches with the National University of Ireland Galway on learning policy, diversity and systematic training. He is a Senior Research Fellow in the University of Edinburgh. He lectures on the International Master’s in European Project Management in Florence. In 2013 he was appointed a specialist lecturer in the conflict resolution program of the Campus for Peace in UOC, the Open University of Catalonia in Barcelona.

Dr. Bruce has been an adviser to the Commission of the European Union’s DG Education and Culture in the Adaptability Strand of the Equal Program (Paris 2005) and has been the research coordinator for disability in the Equality Studies Unit of the Equality Authority of Ireland. He has conducted research for the Training and Employment Authority of Ireland (FÁS) with particular reference to community employment, standards, best practice and labor market outcomes for marginalized groups. He was author of the FÁS commissioned Bruce Report (2005) on integrative interventions for those with substance abuse in Ireland.

Dr. Bruce is a long-standing member of EDEN, the European Distance and E-Learning Network, the Irish Institute of Training and Development, the Institute of Guidance Counsellors, the National Council for Rehabilitation Education. He has lectured and published widely on the social impact of disability, labor market policy, innovative education, distance learning, social inclusion, conflict transformation, strategic change and managing diversity. He is centrally involved in innovative educational development, transformational school systems and enhanced use of ICT in schools and is National Coordinator for the Open Discovery Space program in Ireland. In 2010 he was elected Vice-President of EDEN.
Spring 2015 Keynote Speaker Biography

Dr. Bobbie J. Atkins

Professor Emeritus, San Diego State University

Department of Administration, Rehabilitation and Postsecondary Education - Interwork Institute

Dr. Bobbie J. Atkins has over 35 years of experience in teaching, research, publications, and service in rehabilitation counseling. She is a leader nationally and internationally with expertise in diversity, disability, women’s studies, human resources, and leadership.

Dr. Atkins is a highly effective teacher, lecturer, speaker, and workshop facilitator working with diverse groups. She has published numerous articles, book and monograph chapters.

Of special note: Atkins, B.J., & Wright, G.N. (1980). The vocational rehabilitation of Blacks. Journal of Rehabilitation, 46 (2), 40-46. This research served as a foundation for establishing a Research and Training Center at Howard University (Washington, DC) on Minority Issues and Atkins was a member of the National Advisory Committee during its entire tenure. Additionally, in the 1992 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act Section 21, Atkins’ data was used to help support the significance of diversity needs in rehabilitation (disability).

The National Association for Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC) research award is the Bobbie J. Atkins Rehabilitation Research Award.

Atkins’ other selected accomplishments include:

- Past President of National Council on Rehabilitation Education
- Past Member of National Commission on the Insanity Defense
- Past Member on the President’s Committee on People With Disabilities
- Member of numerous advisory committees i.e. Langston University, Howard University R&T Center, and received many achievement awards i.e. Outstanding Professor, George N. Wright Varsity Award (University of Wisconsin-Madison), President’s Award (National Rehabilitation Association), National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) National Steering Committee on long range planning, Pioneer & Leadership Award, NAMRC, South Carolina State University Appreciation of Contributions to the Rehabilitation Profession Award, Inaugural Distinguished Lecture Series Eminent Guest Speaker Award, Langston University, CANAR Devoted Service to Improve the Quality of Life for American Indians with Disabilities Award, and others.

Dr. Atkins has received extensive funding from federal, state, local, and community agencies for services, education, and research as Principal Investigator, Project Director, and/or content Specialist. The theme in all of her teaching, training, scholarship and service is asset orientation where disability and diversity are natural parts of the human experience.
Spring 2015 Invited Speaker Biography

Margaret Glenn, Ed.D., CRC

Margaret Glenn, Ed.D., CRC is an Associate Professor and Program Coordinator of Rehabilitation Counseling at West Virginia University. Before graduating with a doctorate in counseling from The George Washington University, Margaret served as a public agency rehabilitation counselor and supervisor, specializing in working with people with substance use disorders.

While in Washington, DC, she operated training, technical assistance and dissemination programs in disability and substance abuse, and develop prevention curricula and materials. Since then, she has developed an interest in exploring the use of complementary and alternative healthcare in rehabilitation.

Margaret has investigated the practices of Eastern and other indigenous cultures, and in addition to obtaining certification in nutrition counseling, became a Reiki master and a full mesa carrying shaman in the tradition of the Quero Indians, studied Cognitively Based Compassion Training of the Tibetan Buddhists, and most recently certified as a Primordial Sound Meditation instructor, a technique rooted in the Vedic tradition of India, through the Chopra Center in California. She then cofounded Morgantown Meditation and Counseling.

Margaret also investigated the use of service dogs in employment as part of a Switzer Distinguished Disability and Rehabilitation Fellowship and is working with a NIOSH funded project studying the use of service dogs by Veterans.
Fall 2014 Photo Album

Fall 2014 Conference

Picture 1 – Left to right: Rita Daniels, wife of the late Dr. Ted Daniels and Melissa Scroggins, recipient of the 2014 Ted Daniels’ Scholarship

Picture 2 – Left to right: Kathryn Yamamoto, Melissa Scroggins, Brenda Cartwright, Ken Hergenrather and Rita Daniels
Fall 2014 Photo Album

Picture 3 – Left to right: Melissa Scroggins and J. Chad Duncan

Picture 4 - Maureen McGuire-Kioletz, Conference - 6th Annual NCRE President’s Award Recipient
Spring 2015 Photo Album

Spring 2015 Conference

2014-2015 NCRE Board Members and 2013-14 Past NCRE President

4th Back Row - From left to right:
Trent Landon (Student Representative), Noel Estrada Hernandez (1st Vice President) and Matt Bruinekool (Region 7)

3rd Middle Row - From left to right:
Elizabeth Boland (Region 10), Denise Catalano (Region 6), Carolyn Hawley (Region 3), Alan Bruce (International Rep), Charles Bernacchio (Region 1) and John Keegan (Region 2)

2nd Row, standing behind those that are sitting - From left to right:
Jill Beyzak (Region 8), Aisha Shamburger Rousseau (Region 9), Margaret Glenn (Past President), Brenda Cartwright (Region 4), Michael Accordino (2nd Vice President) and J, Chad Duncan (President)

Front Row, From left to right:
Past President’s: Linda Holloway, Jared Schultz, Susanne Bruyere, David Strauser, Michael Leahy, David Perry and Tom Evenson
Spring 2015 Photo Album

Picture 5 – Left to right – Margaret Glenn, LaKeysha McLaurin, Bobbie Atkins, Jenelle Pitt, and Cozetta Shannon

Picture 6 – Left to right – Bobbie Atkins and Margaret Glenn
Spring 2015 Photo Album

Picture 7 – Left to right – Bobbie Atkins, J. Chad Duncan

Picture 8 – Michael Leahy and MSU Graduate Students and Alumni

Picture 9 – Tiffany Anthony, Keiara Beverly, Candace Jolly, Bobbie Atkins, Cristal Withrow, Taylor Franklin, and Madan Kundu
Spring 2015 Photo Album

Spring 2015 Conference - Poster Presentations
Spring 2015 Photo Album

Spring 2015 Conference - Poster Presentations
Spring 2015 Photo Album

Spring 2015 Conference - Poster Presentations
Spring 2015 Photo Album

Spring 2015 Conference - Poster Presentations
In Memoriam

Dr. William “Bill” Downey

It is with deep sadness that we share the news that Dr. William “Bill” Downey passed away on Monday, November 3, 2014.

Bill was an Assistant Professor of Practice in Rehabilitation Counseling in the Department of Disability and Psychoeducational Studies at The University of Arizona – the very same department where he completed his PhD in 1979. Bill dedicated his life to the field of rehabilitation counseling and provided his expertise and passion in various capacities for over 35 years. In 1996 he established the Rehabilitation Counseling program at New Mexico Highlands University where he taught for six years. Dr. Downey was also a very proud past-president of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE) and was instrumental in providing insight, historical context, wisdom and mentorship to subsequent NCRE members.

Bill was a rehabilitation practitioner and educator who touched the lives of countless persons with disabilities, rehabilitation professionals and educators, and students. He was known for his kind, gentle manner and his irrepressible sense of humor. In reminiscing about his generous heart and quest to “always leave a mark” (as noted on his office door with a graphic of a dog and fire hydrant), countless colleagues, friends and acquaintances have mentioned how Bill consistently sent them words of encouragement, cards, and gifts of appreciation throughout the years. One person recalled a staff person sharing that his mom’s house had been severely damaged in a fire. Bill quietly slipped off after the meeting and wrote the staff member a check to help his mother make it through the difficult time. A student in the University of Arizona Rehabilitation Counseling Program shared that Bill demonstrated the importance of compassion and understanding and that he insisted that students think beyond themselves. She concluded, “I can't tell you how much I appreciate that. I am a better person and a better counselor for the skills, enthusiasm, and curiosity demonstrated by Dr. Downey.” There is nothing anyone could have said that would have made Bill happier.

Bill is survived by his loving wife, Patty and beloved children, Ann and Jimmy. He was preceded in death by his son, Tommy.
In Memoriam

Dr. Cozetta Shannon

Dr. Cozetta D. Shannon passed away quite unexpectedly from this life on Friday, June 26th in Dallas, TX during a layover on her return flight from Beijing, China.

Dr. Shannon completed her undergraduate degree at Southern University in Louisiana before entering the master's program in Rehabilitation Counseling at the University of Memphis. From there she enrolled as a doctoral student at Michigan State University and completed her degree in Rehabilitation Counselor Education in 2009 before beginning her current position as Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator at Troy University in Montgomery, Alabama.

She has served the profession in numerous ways with her first role as the NCRE Student Representative. She followed that by continued active service in NAMRC, where she dedicated her service as a Board Member and Conference Opening Ceremony Chair. Her commitment to NAMRC was recently recognized in 2014 as she was awarded the Joyce Keener Meritorious Service Award. NAMRC was the perfect vehicle for her to strive toward equity and social justice for all. Her passion for social justice was also recognized by NRA in 2014 with the Sylvia Walker Multicultural Award. Beloved by her students, Dr. Shannon was a skilled educator who was able to meaningfully connect to her students, while demanding excellence. Cozetta was a dynamic personality with an unmatched passion and zeal for life and a consummate professional who enjoyed her work and loved our profession.

In her very short life, she had a profound impact on each student, peer and colleague in the field she met. She will be very dearly missed.
Submit Your Information to the NCRE Newsletter

The NCRE Newsletter Forum is an organizational newsletter designed to inform and stimulate discussion about issues pertinent to professional growth and issues of interest to rehabilitation counseling and education.

Submissions to the Alliance Forum are encouraged.

All materials need to be sent directly to the Editor in an electronic format. We encourage the use of web links to useful information and pictures or graphics. These materials will be utilized at the discretion of the Editor/National Council on Rehabilitation Education.