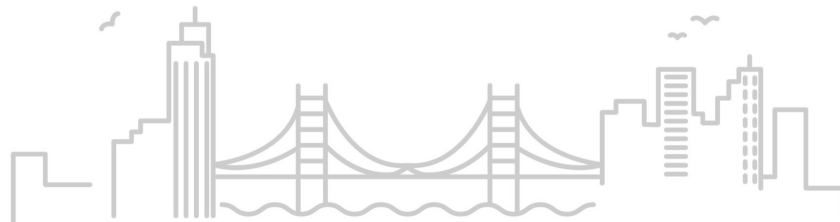


Celebrating 65 Years of ARCA: Pre-Conference Symposium



65
years



Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 **Time:** 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM (Central Time)

Location: Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) School of Allied Health

Address: 411 Prieur Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112.

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Welcome Letter From Our ARCA President!

Dear All,

On behalf of the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA), please allow me to extend a warm welcome to our *Celebrating 65 Years: ARCA Pre-Conference Symposium!* We are most appreciative that you decided to join us for this celebration of rehabilitation advocacy, advancement, and above all, community. We are excited to share that this Pre-Conference Symposium comprises 24 concurrent sessions and 6 student poster presentations with great opportunities to enrich professional development, learn from fellow ARCA members, and engage in meaningful discourse with fellow colleagues. This wonderful event would not be possible without the help of the Counseling Program at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) School of Allied Health, Dr. Henry McCarthy, Dr. Erin Dugan, Pam Galindo, our Pre-Conference Symposium Co-Chairs, Dr. Christine Sacco-Bene and Dr. Michael Hartley, our ARCA Office Manager, Vickie Leeming, and our ARCA Executive Board. Please join me in thanking each of them for their service and dedication to ARCA.

Rehabilitation Counselors are taxed with endless responsibilities, significant demands, and often times, minimal appreciation. Whether you find yourself in the public sector or private sector, in forensics, in education, or beginning your career as a student, we hope you know that there is a place for you here in ARCA. Our organization would not be where it is today without your continued support and involvement, and for that, we share our sincere gratitude to each of you. Of course, there is plenty more work to be done as we aim for another 65+ years of striving to foster a greater sense of community within our organization to best support you and the important work you do. We hope you will continue to join us in our endeavors as we keep moving forward.

As we take pride in our Pre-Conference Symposium's theme, *Celebrating 65 Years of ARCA*, we hope you will bask in this celebration alongside many wonderful colleagues who have come from near and far to share in this special occasion. On behalf of the ARCA Executive Board, we are eager to connect with you at this year's Pre-Conference Symposium, and we thank you for your support and dedication to ARCA. ARCA continues to be the American Counseling Association's (ACA) premier rehabilitation counseling division, and we will continue to strive for disability justice and inclusion within the larger counseling profession and within the community at large, together.

Thank you, again, for attending our 2024 Pre-Conference Symposium. We hope you enjoy yourselves!

Sincerely,
Daniel

Daniel Balva, Ph.D., LMHC, NCC, CRC
Pronouns: He/Him
ARCA President, 2023-2024



Welcome Letter From Our ARCA Pre-Conference Symposium Chairs

Welcome members of the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA), and all those passionate about the field of rehabilitation counseling to our *Celebrating 65 Years of ARCA: Pre-Conference Symposium!*

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to this special event, developed with the intention of fostering a platform for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and experiences within rehabilitation counseling and counselor education.

Throughout this symposium, we aim to provide an invaluable opportunity for ARCA members and individuals interested in rehabilitation counseling to come together and engage in meaningful discussions, share research findings, scholarship, and best practices that impact professional counseling.

Our focus today is on rehabilitation counseling, a field that plays an important role in empowering individuals with disabilities to lead fulfilling and independent lives. We have selected a diverse array of presentations from a wide variety of topics, ranging from the latest advancements in rehabilitation counseling techniques to emerging trends in counselor education and supervision.

We encourage you all to actively participate, ask questions, engage in discussions, and most importantly, seize this opportunity to learn from one another!

Once again, we extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you. Thank you for being a part of this pre-conference symposium.

Michael and Christine
Pre-Conference Symposium Committee Co-Chairs



Michael Hartley, Ph.D., CRC
ARCA Governing Council Representative



Christine Sacco-Bene, Ph.D., LMHC, LPC,
NCC, CRC
ARCA Director, Organization,
Administration, & Management

ARCA Pre-Conference Symposium Schedule

Registration / Check In: 11:00am – 11:30am

Welcome (Room 130): 11:30am – 11:45am

Break: 11:45am – 12:00pm

Concurrent Sessions: 12:00pm – 1:00pm

- **Room 130** (Capacity: 249 people) – 2 sessions; 30 minutes each
 - **12:00pm – 12:30pm** – *Future of Rehabilitation Counseling: Insights from Past, Present, and Emerging Leaders*
 - **Presenters:** Jina Chun, PhD, CRC
 - Allison Levine, PhD, NCC, CRC, tLMHC
 - Michael Hartley, PhD, CRC
 - Connie Richard, MFA, MS, CRC
 - Andrea Nerlich, PhD, CRC, CVE
 - Allison Fleming, PhD, CRC
 - **12:30pm – 1:00pm** - *Factors Contributing to Burnout Among Public Section Rehabilitation Counselors*
 - **Presenter:** Monica E. Alharazim, PhD, LPC-S, CRC
- **Room 231** (Capacity: 105 people) – 2 sessions; 30 minutes each
 - **12:00pm – 12:30pm** – *ARCA Task Force: Identifying Disability-Related Competencies in Clinical Supervision*
 - **Presenters:** Daniel Balva, PhD, LMHC, NCC, CRC
 - Christine Sacco-Bene, PhD, LMHC, LPC, NCC, CRC
 - **12:30pm – 1:00pm** – *Family Systems Theories: A Creative Approach to Advocacy and Social Justice*
 - **Presenters:** Christine Sacco-Bene, PhD, LMHC, LPC, NCC, CRC
 - Michael Walsh, PhD, LPC, CRC
- **Room 133** (Capacity: 33 people) – 2 sessions; 30 minutes each
 - **12:00pm – 12:30pm** – *Counselors Get in The Game: Using ESports in Rehabilitation and Recovery*
 - **Presenter:** Farren Stackhouse, Ph.D., LPC, LCMHC, C-DBT, BC-TMH
 - **12:30pm – 1:00pm** – *Distance Counseling, Distance Education, and Distance Supervision: Legal and Ethical Duties*
 - **Presenter:** Dustin Reed, PhD, LPC (LA), LIMHP (NE), NCC, CRC

Break: 1:00pm – 1:15pm

Student Poster Presentations Session A (Located in the First Floor Elevator Lobby)

- **1:00pm – 1:15pm** – *More Than Just Tired: The Effects of Fatigue on Employment for Individuals with Multiple Sclerosis*
 - **Presenter:** Danielle Bourgeon
- **1:00pm – 1:15pm** – *Cognitive Performance Differences as a Function of Depression Levels in Older Adults*

- **Presenters:** Raquel Nunez, B.S.
- George W. Hebert, Ph.D.

Lunch: 1:15pm – 1:45pm ~ Lunch pick-up will take place adjacent to Room 231

- **Room 335 (Dining Room)** – Lunchroom – NO CEs
- **Room 231 (Capacity: 105 people)** – 1 session; 30 minutes
 - **1:15pm – 1:45pm** – *Unlocking Wealth Through Disability Related Counselorpreneurship*
 - **Presenters:** Paige N. Dunlap, Ph.D., LCMHC-S, LPC, CRC, NCC, ACS, BCC, CVE
 - Quintin Boston, Ph.D., LPC, CRC
 - Caroline Booth, PhD, LCMHC-S, NCC, ACS, BC-TMH, BCC
 - Deauna Froneberger, M.S., LCMHC, LCPC, LCAS, ICAADC, CRC, CLCP

Break: 1:45pm – 2:00pm

Student Poster Presentations Session A Continued (Located in the First Floor Elevator Lobby)

- **1:45pm – 2:00pm** – *More Than Just Tired: The Effects of Fatigue on Employment for Individuals with Multiple Sclerosis*
 - **Presenter:** Danielle Bourgeon
- **1:45pm – 2:00pm** – *Cognitive Performance Differences as a Function of Depression Levels in Older Adults*
 - **Presenters:** Raquel Nunez, B.S.
 - George W. Hebert, Ph.D.

Concurrent Sessions: 2:00pm – 3:00pm

- **Room 130 (Capacity: 249 people)** – 2 sessions; 30 minutes each
 - **2:00pm – 2:30pm** – *Disability Adjustment Counseling: From Theory to Rehabilitation on Counseling Practice*
 - **Presenters:** Malachy Bishop, Ph.D., CRC
 - Constance Richard, MFA, MS, CRC
 - Kaiqi Zhou, PhD, CRC, LPC-IT
 - Jaeyoung (Jay) Kim, Ph.D.
 - Sara Park, MS, CRC, LPC-IT
 - Eunjeong Ko, MS.
 - **2:30pm – 3:00pm** – *The Case for Case Conceptualization*
 - **Presenters:** Jennifer Hunsaker, MSS
 - Trent Landon, PhD, CRC, A-CMHC
 - Michael Gerald, PhD, LCMHC, LMHC, CRC
- **Room 231 (Capacity: 105 people)** – 2 sessions; 30 minutes each
 - **2:00pm – 2:30pm** – *An Investigation of Gender and Hearing/Visual Impairments on Depression Levels*
 - **Presenters:** George Hebert, PhD
 - Holly Walters, Ph.D., LPC-S, CRC
 - Erin M. Dugan, Ph.D., NCC, CRC, LPC- S
 - **2:30pm – 3:00pm** – *Courtesy Stigma and Life Satisfaction Among Caregivers of Youth with IDD*



- **Presenters.** Eun-Jeong Lee, PhD
- Sang Qin, PhD, CRC, LPC
- Jinhee Park, Ph.D., CRC
- **Room 133** (Capacity: 33 people) – 2 sessions; 30 minutes each
 - **2:00pm – 2:30pm** – *In-Between Cultural Identity: A Disability-Informed Intersectional Model*
 - **Presenters:** Christine Reid, PhD, CRC, CLCP
 - Wagnanesh Zeleke, EdD, LCPC, NCC
 - **2:30pm – 3:00pm** – *Role of Self-Advocacy in the Psychosocial Adaptation of Individuals with Single-Sided Deafness*
 - **Presenter:** Wanying (Christine) Sui, B.S.

Break: 3:00pm – 3:15pm

Student Poster Presentations Session B (Located in the First Floor Elevator Lobby)

- **3:00pm – 3:15pm** – *Addressing Unique Transportation Challenges with Emerging Innovations*
 - **Presenter:** Natalie Reyes
- **3:00pm – 3:15pm** – *Integrating Aspects of Person-Centered Play Therapy for Best Practices in Rehabilitation Counseling*
 - **Presenter:** Amber Brasher
- **3:00pm – 3:15pm** – *Clinical Supervision: Assessing Non-Verbal Counseling Techniques with Counselors-In-Training with Blindness and Low Vision*
 - **Presenter:** Robert Parsons, Jr., M. A., CRC, CVRT, LLC
- **3:00pm – 3:15pm** – *Recidivism and Employment: How Can Vocational Rehabilitation Create Change for the Ex-Offender Population*
 - **Presenter:** Parisa Moradi

Concurrent Sessions: 3:15pm – 4:15pm

- **Room 130** (Capacity: 249 people) – 2 sessions; 30 minutes each
 - **3:15pm – 3:45pm** – *Transition Readiness Toolkit: A Tool to Promote Data-Driven Pre-ETS*
 - **Presenters:** Brian Phillips, PhD, CRC
 - Allison Fleming, PhD, CRC
 - **3:45pm – 4:15pm** – *Empowering Youth: A Comprehensive Approach to Addressing Suicidality in Pre ETS-Youth and Marginalized Communities*
 - **Presenters:** Michelle Mitcham, PhD, LMHC-Q, NCC, CCMHC, CFM
 - Michelle Bradham-Cousar, PhD, CRC, CVE, LMHC, NCC
 - Kerri C.L. McCullough, EdD, LPC, LCPC, NCC
 - Natalie Silver, B.S.
- **Room 231** (Capacity: 105 people) – 2 sessions; 30 minutes each
 - **3:15pm – 3:45pm** – *Facilitating Anti-Ableist Disability Awareness in Counseling and Supervision*
 - **Presenters:** K. Lynn Pierce, PhD, LPC, CRC, ACS
 - Toni Saia, PhD, CRC, LAC



- Allison Levine, PhD, NCC, CRC
- Mari Guillermo, EdD, CRC
- Allison Fleming, PhD, CRC
- Andrea Nerlich, PhD, CRC, CVE
- **3:45pm – 4:15pm** – *Dreams Do Come True: Supporting Counseling Students with Disabilities*
 - **Presenter:** Olivia Fadul, MS, LPCC (NM); NV (CPC)
- **Room 133** (Capacity: 33 people) – 2 sessions; 30 minutes each
 - **3:15pm – 3:45pm** – *A Dyadic Approach to Disability Adjustment: An Exploratory Study*
 - **Presenter:** Megan J Baumunk, MS, CRC, CVE, LPC-IT
 - **3:45pm – 4:15pm** – *Essential Components for Effective Co-Supervision in Rehabilitation Counseling*
 - **Presenters:** Yongsu Song, MS
 - Jina Chun, PhD, CRC
 - Megan Baumunk, MS, CRC, CVE, LPC-IT

Break: 4:15pm – 4:30pm

Student Poster Presentations Session B Continued (Located in the First Floor Elevator Lobby)

- **4:15pm – 4:30pm** – *Addressing Unique Transportation Challenges with Emerging Innovations*
 - **Presenter:** Natalie Reyes
- **4:15pm – 4:30pm** – *Integrating Aspects of Person-Centered Play Therapy for Best Practices in Rehabilitation Counseling*
 - **Presenter:** Amber Brasher
- **4:15pm – 4:30pm** – *Clinical Supervision: Assessing Non-Verbal Counseling Techniques with Counselors-In-Training with Blindness and Low Vision*
 - **Presenter:** Robert Parsons, Jr., M. A., CRC, CVRT, LLC
- **4:15pm – 4:30pm** – *Recidivism and Employment: How Can Vocational Rehabilitation Create Change for the Ex-Offender Population*
 - **Presenter:** Parisa Moradi

Concurrent Sessions: 4:30pm – 5:30pm

- **Room 130** (Capacity: 249 people) – 2 sessions; 30 minutes each
 - **4:30pm – 5:00pm** – *Adapting or Succumbing? Uncovering the Pivotal Factors in the Journey Through Mental Illness*
 - **Presenters:** Dr. Deyu Pan, Ph.D., CRC
 - Sang Qin, PhD, CRC, LPC
 - Xin Zou, LPC, LMHC
 - Jiayi Fu, LMHC
 - **5:00pm – 5:30pm** – *Promoting Informed Career Decisions with Clients Working with Multiple Sclerosis*
 - **Presenters:** Malachy Bishop, Ph.D., CRC
 - Megan J Baumunk, MS, CRC, CVE, LPC-IT
 - Sara Park, MS, CRC, LPC-IT
 - Eunjeong Ko, MS



- **Room 231** (Capacity: 105 people) – 2 sessions; 30 minutes each
 - **4:30pm – 5:00pm** – *Rehabilitation Training on Climate Change Related Extreme Weather Events and Disability*
 - **Presenter:** Uzma Khan, MS
 - **5:00pm – 5:30pm** – *Adjustment Counseling for Persons with Chronic Illness and Disability*
 - **Presenters:** Jennifer Hunsaker, MSS
 - Trent Landon, PhD, CRC, A-CMHC
 - Michael Gerald, PhD, LCMHC, LMHC, CRC

- **Room 133** (Capacity: 33 people) – 1 session; 60 minutes
 - **4:30pm – 5:30pm** – *Navigating Change: Lobbying for Progress in Rehabilitation Counseling and Disability Advocacy*
 - **Presenters:** Quiteya Walker, PhD, LCMHCA, NCC, CRC
 - Chrisann Schiro-Geist, PhD

Break: 5:30pm – 5:45pm

Closing Words and Adjourn (Room 130): 5:45pm – 6:00pm

ARCA Pre-Conference Symposium Continuing Education (CE) Statement

Thank you for joining us at the *Celebrating 65 Years of ARCA: Pre-Conference Symposium!*

Within 30 days following the ACA conference, the ARCA office will issue Certificates of Attendance for the hours you've accrued during this approval period (CRC/CVE and/or NBCC). These certificates will be sent to the email address you provided during registration for the Pre-Conference event.

To facilitate tracking of your hours and verify your attendance, please ensure that you sign in upon arrival to the sessions and complete evaluations for each session you attend. You must attend the entire session and submit your evaluations by Thursday, April 11, 2024, 12:00 p.m. Central Time to earn CE credit.

For your convenience, we have printed evaluations that can be completed and handed-in to one of the ARCA Pre-Conference Symposium Committee members or volunteers. For those who prefer going paper free, you can complete each respective program evaluation via the following link: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/H69Ok9Z/ARCAPreConSym041024EVAL>. Additionally, we have the QR Code for you to fill out and submit your evaluations.

CE EVALUATION QR CODE



Available CEs (For In-Person Attendance Only):

- Up to 4.5 CEs for attendance at Pre-Conference Symposium sessions on Wednesday, April 10, 2024
- 1 CRC/CVE/NBCC CE for *Publishing in RCB: Insights from the Editors* on Thursday, April 11, 2024 from 9:00 am – 10:00 am (Central Time) in the Hilton Riverside New Orleans, Canal - Third Floor
- 2 CRC/CVE/NBCC CEs for *Learning and Doing Advocacy and Self-Advocacy: Discussion of Examples from the Classroom to the Community* on Thursday, April 11, 2024 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (Central Time) in the Hilton Riverside New Orleans, Canal - Third Floor.

ARCA Pre-Conference Symposium Student Poster Presentations

Please note that student poster presentations will be on display throughout the entire Pre-Conference Symposium. However, poster presenters will be presented during designated breaks throughout the day, and each session will be allotted to presentation time slots in order to students to have ample time to share their research. While CEs are not provided for attending student poster presentations, we kindly ask for your support of our student presenters who are engaged in meaningful and thought-provoking research. As such, we kindly ask that you complete program evaluations for student poster presenters as well so each presenter can obtain feedback on the important work they are doing.



Important Considerations, Wi-Fi, and Contact Information

Please note that the main entrance to the LSU Health Sciences Center where the Pre-Conference Symposium will be held will be locked at all times, per campus security regulations. Please keep this in mind if and when leaving the building during the event. We will try to have someone designated inside the building to help open the door if anyone is locked out, but please also coordinate with a fellow colleague if you plan to leave the building so you have a back-up person to open the door for you, if needed.

Guest Wi-Fi is available for all ARCA Pre-Conference Symposium attendees, and the login information is as follows:

- **Connect to:** LSUHSC-Visitor
 - **Username:** lsuv002
 - **Password:** Tigers12345

Should you have any questions during the ARCA Pre-Conference Symposium, please feel free to speak with any of our designated ARCA Pre-Conference Symposium Committee members or volunteers. Please also feel free to contact ARCA's Office Manager, Vickie Leeming at arcaoffice@arcaweb.org or ARCA's President, Daniel Balva at danbalva@gmail.com.

ARCA Programming at ACA Information

We invite you to join us for our ARCA programming at the ACA Conference. All of the in-person events (indicated below) will take place at the Hilton Riverside New Orleans (**Address:** Two Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130). Our ARCA-specific programming is as follows:

Thursday, April 11, 2024

*Please note that Thursday's programming will be hybrid and available for attendees to attend both in-person and via Zoom as well. However, CEs will **only** be provided for in-person attendance at the following events.

- **9:00 am – 10:00 am (Central Time):** *Publishing in the RCB: Insights from the Editors*
 - **Presenters:** Timothy Tansey, PhD., CRC, CVE & Fong Chan, Ph.D., CRC
 - **Location:** Hilton Riverside New Orleans, Canal Room - Third Floor
 - **Hybrid Zoom Link:**
 - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83169781488?pwd=80yKfyrnfalXyvKJcvl9jMmzXZCIp.1>
 - **Meeting ID:** 831 6978 1488
 - Passcode:** 241474
- **10:00am – 12:00pm (Central Time):** *Learning and Doing Advocacy and Self-Advocacy: Discussion of Examples from the Classroom to the Community*
 - **Presentation Title:** *Advocacy Through Education and Consultation*
 - **Presenter:** Rose Angelocci, Ph.D., CRC, CWIC
 - **Presentation Title:** *Pursue Your Passion for Needed Change: Guidelines for Implementing an Advocacy Project as a Course Requirement*
 - **Presenter:** Henry McCarthy, Ph.D.
 - **Presentation Title:** *From Passion to Practice: Everyday Advocacy for Positive Change*
 - **Presenter:** Kathleen Locmelis, MHS, LPC CRC
 - **Moderators:** Dr. Christine Sacco-Bene, PhD, LMHC, LPC, NCC, CRC & Daniel Balva, PhD., LMHC, NCC, CRC
 - **Location:** Hilton Riverside New Orleans, Canal Room - Third Floor
 - **Hybrid Zoom Link:**
 - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83169781488?pwd=80yKfyrnfalXyvKJcvl9jMmzXZCIp.1>



- **Meeting ID:** 831 6978 1488
Passcode: 241474
- **1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (Central Time): ARCA Membership Meeting**
 - **Presenters:** ARCA Executive Board
 - **Location:** Hilton Riverside New Orleans, Canal Room - Third Floor
 - **Hybrid Zoom Link:**
 - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83169781488?pwd=80yKfyrnfalXyvKJcvl9jMmzXZCIp.1>
 - **Meeting ID:** 831 6978 1488
 - Passcode:** 241474

Friday, April 12, 2024

- **7:00 pm – 8:30 pm (Central Time): ARCA Joint Reception with ACA’s Military and Government Counseling Association (MGCA) and ACA’s Southern Region**
 - *Please Note that the ARCA Awards Ceremony will take place during this time.*
 - **Location:** Hilton Riverside New Orleans, Grand Salon C - Section 13 - 16, First Floor

Save the Date for ARCA’s Virtual Learning Institute!

We are excited to invite you to join us at ARCA’s Virtual Learning Institute, “*Building Community: Advancing the Field of Rehabilitation Counseling*” which will take place virtually throughout the month of May 2024. All presentations will be pre-recorded, and attendees can view the Virtual Learning Institute presentations at their leisure throughout the month of May 2024 and obtain up to nine CRC and CVE CEs. Registration for the Virtual Learning Institute is now open, and you can register [here](#) or via the below link/QR Code.

ARCA’s Virtual Learning Institute Registration Link: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/epkb4qs>

ARCA’s Virtual Learning Institute Registration QR Code:



A Special Thank You

Thank you to the Department of Counseling Program at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) School of Allied Health for hosting our *Celebrating 65 Years: ARCA Pre-Conference Symposium!*



<https://alliedhealth.lsuhscc.edu/crc/default.aspx>

Thank you to the following Rehabilitation Counseling training programs who have also contributed to supporting this year's ARCA Pre-Conference Symposium!



Counseling and Rehabilitation

School of Medicine Columbia

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



Florida International University's Rehabilitation Counseling Program

2023 – 2024 ARCA Board of Directors

President: Daniel Balva, Ph.D., LMHC, NCC, CRC
Past-President: Valerie Dixon, Ph.D., CRC, LMHC, NCC
President-Elect: Paige Dunlap, Ph.D., LCMHC-S, LPC, CRC, NCC, ACS, CVE
Treasurer: Dustin Reed, Ph.D., LPC, LIMHP, NCC, CRC
Secretary: Maureen McGuire-Kuletz, Ed.D, CRC
Governing Council Representative: Michael Hartley, Ph.D., CRC

2023 – 2024 ARCA Council Directors

Director, Council on Public Relations & Awareness: Randall Boen, Ph.D., CRC, LCPC
Director, Council on Development and Collaboration: Michelle Bradham-Cousar, Ph.D., CRC, CVE, LMHC, NCC
Director, Council on Public Policy, Professional Preparation and Standards: Taryn Richardson, Ph.D., CRC, NCC
Director, Council on Organization, Administration, and Management: Christine Sacco-Bene, Ph.D., LMHC, LPC, NCC, CRC
Director, Council on Research and Knowledge: Amanda Tashjian, PhD, CRC, LPC, LCPC
Student Representative: Alexis Duggan, M.S., CRC, LPC

2023 – 2024 ARCA Region Representatives

Midwest Region Representative: Jina Chun, Ph.D., CRC
North Atlantic Region Representative: Andrea Nerlich, Ph.D., CRC, CVE
Southern Region Representative: Quiteya Walker, Ph.D., LCMHCA, NCC, CRC
Western Region Representative: Katie Osabe, BA, MS, CRC, APCC, PSSC

2023 – 2024 ARCA Office

ARCA Office Manager: Vickie Leeming

Congratulations Student Travel Scholarship Winners!

Congratulations to the following ARCA Student Travel Scholarship Winners for their award-winning essays: Amber Brasher, Jennifer Hunsaker, Olivia Fadul, Dayana Sariñana, and Yongsu Song. Their essays can be found below.

Empowering Advocacy: The Role of Rehabilitation Professionals in Addressing DEI Challenges

By: Amber Brasher

University of North Texas, College of Education

I believe the "isms," such as ableism, cisgenderism, heterosexism, and racism, are the most destructive and dominating concerns facing individuals with disabilities today. Addressing the various and statistically more frequent co-morbid "isms" populations with disabilities face to bring awareness to and increase advocacy efforts against should be at the forefront of action for rehabilitation professionals. Individuals with disabilities and those who identify with other discriminated against groups face stigmatization through various avenues, throughout their lives, often intersecting with other stigmatized aspects of their identity. Everything from employment opportunities to access to healthcare, social acceptance and overall well-being is impacted. Such experiences of discrimination can be compounded for individuals who belong to these communities, leading to increased vulnerability and marginalization.

The systematic structural oppression and the intersectionality challenges faced by individuals with disabilities are a frightening foreshadowing of other slippery slopes on the horizon in today's political climate. Diminishing the rights of one group diminishes all our rights. Emphasizing the roles that rehabilitation professionals can take in advocating for disability rights on the broader stages of national and international conversations and initiatives on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) will help ameliorate the problem. By partnering with DEI efforts, professionals can shed light on the intersectionality of disability with other aspects of individuals' identity like race, culture, gender, sexual, and romantic orientations. Valid in its own right, the reasoning behind this approach has a duplicitous basis.

Basic human rights that were once protected by DEI initiatives for fair, equitable, and just treatment for all are diminishing in our nation, specifically in the areas of public and higher education due to recent events in "identity politics." Rehabilitation professionals bringing awareness to and championing disability advocacy alongside broader DEI platforms will not only serve to bring awareness to and better the lives of individuals with disabilities but could also serve as an avenue to raise attention to DEI issues and deficits in our nation. Challenging systemic barriers, utilizing a holistic "whole person" approach that incorporates all aspects of our client's identity is of utmost importance. Modeling this empowerment and advocacy while amplifying the voices of multiple-marginalized individuals through political activism, advocating for policy change, and fostering allyship and solidarity across diverse groups is an essential step in addressing these challenges.

Rehabilitation professionals can play a crucial role in bringing awareness about identity politics by examining their own political views, implicit biases, thoughts, and beliefs and by taking a stand against the current trend of diminishing rights of our most vulnerable populations. By promoting inclusion within broader diversity, equity, and inclusion conversations and raising awareness of the intersectionality of disability with other aspects of identity, such as gender, sexuality, and race, we can not only help foster a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities but also ensure that the diverse needs and experiences of individuals with disabilities are not overlooked.

Moreover, this approach can help keep DEI initiatives at the forefront of public attention, particularly in regions where there may be resistance or limitations to discussing topics of inclusion. It is crucial for rehabilitation

professionals to advocate for policies and practices that promote equal opportunities and access for individuals with disabilities, both within their professional roles and in broader societal contexts. By championing disability advocacy on the national stage of DEI conversations, they will also contribute to creating a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

For Greater Visibility, We Need Greater Proximity

By Jennifer Hunsaker
Utah State University

It is nearly impossible to distill the concerns currently facing individuals with disabilities into a single, most important issue. Accessing higher education, finding adequate and fulfilling employment, and maintaining access to physical and mental health care can easily top the list.

We live in a world created for “normal” people, of “normal” intelligence, with “normal” physical and mental aptitudes. The majority of American citizens go about their days with little consideration for persons with disabilities. Social taboos of parking in “Handicapped” spaces without a placard are largely observed. People tend to leave accessible restrooms available for persons who require them. Wheelchair ramps and push-button doors have become the norm. From the “normal” person’s perspective, we live in a country where accommodation is everywhere. However, this type of accommodation of visible, physical disability placates our collective sense of responsibility for those facing invisible, intellectual, or emotional disability. What’s more, many of these efforts create environments that are minimally accessible, for a certain population rather than truly accessible for many.

In February 2022, the National Council on Disability (NCD) called for “an all-of-government approach to achieve health equity... for the largest unrecognized minority group in this country, the over 61 million people with disabilities.”¹ Systemic barriers continue to cause shortfalls in access to care, quality of care, and health outcomes. Section 504 of the ADA allows people with disabilities that affect communication to have a variety of accommodations, yet research indicates that people often do not receive them. Many fixed structures in medical spaces have improved parking and ramp access, but there is currently no legislation governing exam tables, diagnostic imaging, or other medical equipment. By and large, many in government, the medical community, and society at large feel as though accessibility work is largely complete, yet there is much to be done.

The question then becomes, what can we, as a profession, do to ameliorate a lack of accessibility in a world that largely does not see the need for additional funding or accommodations for persons with disabilities? The answer lies in a quote from Carl Rogers when he said, “I have learned that my total organismic sensing of a situation is more trustworthy than my intellect.”² For Rogers, understanding someone or something intellectually was only part of the process. True change came from the healing, proximate relationship between two people.

As a country, we can grasp the intellectual need for accommodation for persons with disabilities, but our lack of proximation with someone with a disability can prevent us from truly adopting change. This means we need more connection with disability, not less. More listening for understanding rather than directive legislation that misses the mark. More funding for programs aimed at adequate employment, accessible education, and quality health care. More access to mental health care.

In vocational rehabilitation, this means advocating with more small and medium-sized businesses to create value-added customized employment experiences with the same levels of pay, benefits, and opportunity as traditional employment. It means greater outreach, so the community is invested in the success of its members with disabilities. It means more collaboration with school counselors to advocate on behalf of transition-age students with disabilities.

For mental health counselors, this means greater connection in the clinical space, focused on unconditional positive regard, acceptance, and empathy. It means advocating for better access to mental health care for persons with disabilities on a local, state, and federal level. It means showing up for our clients with disabilities in the same way we show up for clients of other marginalized populations - publicly and proudly.

If we are ever to improve the lives of people with disabilities on a large scale, we have to suspend the notion that deep connection is secondary to the work we do. Instead, it is the most important part.

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Joining Hands with Students with Disabilities: Empowering Students to Find their Voice

By Olivia Fadul

University of New Mexico

For many students the process of integrating into college can be exciting, invigorating, and a dream come true. For others, especially those with disabilities, the process of transitioning to higher education can be a frustrating and even emotionally taxing experience. Leakes and colleagues (2014) found that SWDs experience emotional distress in their nine weeks of college. By year two, SWD have an increased dropout rate of 10%. Succinctly, SWD's are cited by researchers to experience imposter syndrome, feelings of being the only one, exclusion, and a lack of belonging in higher education (Bown and Lee, 2018; Dolmage, 2017). Furthermore, students can experience emotional distress from not receiving accommodations (e.g. close captioning on Zoom, Braille, poorly constructed building, lack of educational design in teaching).

How Can Counselors Support Students with Disabilities.

As professional counselors, it is vital that we provide for SWD's emotional needs. Oftentimes, SWDs lack the social emotional skills to integrate into higher education. Additionally, SWD may struggle to advocate for personal needs and how to empower themselves. To navigate higher education, this author recommends the counseling profession to develop culturally responsive counseling. From this perspective this may mean a counselor may consider group counseling (Hartley & Goodrich, 2019). Psychoeducational group counseling can be a tool for SWDs work through stigma and discrimination that may be felt in their academic environment. to feel as if they are seen, heard, and validated. In this kind of group, SWDs are able to learn academic and social skills in a safe environment.

Understanding Disability Culture and History Can Help Students to Feel Empowered

Finally, counselors can support SWD in learning about disability activists Judy Huemann and Ed Roberts led the protest for 30 million disabled people in nine different cities. The disability rights protest was crucial as the Rehabilitation Act, Section 504 was the first law to demand equal access for individuals with disabilities by removing barriers (e.g. architectural, employment, and transportation). Years later, the American Disability Act (ADA, 1990) was passed. The ADA (1990) law strengthened Section 504. This Civil Rights law posited that individuals with disabilities cannot be discriminated against in public life (e.g. jobs, schools, transportation, public and private life). These two laws can be psychoeducational subjects that group counseling can be processed with SWD. Saia and colleagues (2023) argue that when students learn disability history, they may garner the strength to push forth. One psychoeducational tool a counselor can use to work with SWD is to teach about disability.

Counselors could support SWD by showing YouTube clips of Judy Heumann, Ed Roberts, and the documentary Crip Camp.

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Student Travel Scholarship Essay

By Dayana Sariñana

As a growing profession and organization that is set on dedicating time, education, service, and assistance to the persons with disabilities community regardless of gender, ethnicity, severity of disability, and education level, some concerns can affect the mission of helping those with disabilities. The most common concerns that arise as a challenge when trying to support and help the disability community include accessibility and inclusion, employment opportunities, education, healthcare disparities, social stigma, and discrimination. The most significant concern within this profession is focused on technological advancements in assistive technology and how they significantly affect common concerns, but there are limits to their use. Our world continues to advance technologically, and we professionals are responsible for adapting and advocating for our clients with disabilities to use assistive technology to help them become more independent in daily living. Using assistive technology can help eradicate the common concerns that challenge not only professionals on how to serve persons with disabilities more efficiently but how people with disabilities can also engage in their advocacy and overcome the concerns of accessibility, inclusion, employment, education, healthcare disparities, social stigma, and discrimination.

Healthcare disparities in accessing assistive technology are this community's biggest concern. Many persons with disabilities are denied access to assistive technology regardless of the recorded beneficial and essential use it would have in their lives, particularly those who come from low- to middle-income countries. These assistive technologies could be seen as life-changing products to improve the quality of life of a person with disabilities, but they are not as accessible as they should be. The most common barrier is the financial costs of producing and maintaining specific assistive technology. Healthcare disparities negatively impact communication, access to healthcare services, quality of life, and inequality in educational and employment opportunities. As professionals, we need to advocate for facilitating access to assistive technology and assist clients in navigating the process of obtaining and utilizing assistive technology. We can do this through assessments, documentation, and medical records that support the need for assistive technology, collaboration with other professions, continuing to gain knowledge of funding sources, and, importantly, insurance advocacy, which involves helping clients with appeals when denied the assistive technology that evidence-based research highly supports.

Embracing technological development enhances independence and quality of life for persons with disabilities created to address specific needs. Thus, the goal is to ameliorate the health disparity efficiently for the

following reasons. The use of assistive technology targets more than an individual physical disability as it can also support and maintain cognitive function, communication, hearing, mobility, self-care, and vision, allowing persons with disabilities to be more inclusive and accessible to daily personal and social tasks. With employment opportunities, persons with disabilities are more inclined to produce positive outcomes, as they have the support and necessary technology to improve and maintain stable employment. Not only does assistive technology produce positive results in the workplace, but also within the walls of education, it allows persons with disabilities to reach their full potential in academic performance and participate more fully in their home, school, and community in the least restrictive environment. The positive outcomes of assistive technology promote the elimination of social stigma and discrimination. As professionals, we must continue to advocate, educate, train, research, and innovate one another and encourage inclusivity to alleviate the concerns of accessibility and inclusion, employment opportunities, education, social stigma, discrimination, and, more importantly, healthcare disparities.

Focusing On The Stigma Faced by Individuals with Disabilities

By Yongsu Song

University of Wisconsin- Madison

I believe the most important concern currently facing people with disabilities (PWD) is the stigma. There are several types of stigmas facing PWDs such as stigma in the workplace, in healthcare system, and in education.

Regarding the stigma in the workplace, stigma toward PWDs continues to result in unemployment, underemployment, and lack of advancement. Disability has been linked to disease and helplessness, which affects discrimination for PWDs despite disability rights laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). According to the latest research findings investigating how PWDs stigma affects employer evaluation of jobseekers who disclose a history of disabilities, there were common stereotypes of PWD as fragile and unreliable. Given that there are roughly 27 percent of PWDs living in the United States, the stigma in the workplace toward PWDs is a really big problem of the quality of life of PWDs.

Concerning the stigma in healthcare system, 32 percent of adults with disabilities reported that they experienced some sort of unfair treatment because of their disabilities. Compared to the people without disabilities (10%), the ratio of PWDs is really high. Especially, this disparity is worsening during the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the latest research, disability stigma increased accessibility challenges for PWDs in health system during the pandemic.

Lastly, the stigma in education is one of the big problems for PWDs. The latest systematic review research found that greater stigma for PWDs had a significant correlation with less self-esteem and less optimal psychological adjustments. When considering that students are the future of the country, the decline in learning-related indicators due to the stigma faced by students with disabilities in educational settings is a problem that needs to be addressed at the national level.

As professionals, we need to engage in the following activities to ameliorate the stigma and associated issues faced by PWDs. First, we should provide education to the general public to reduce the stigma against PWDs. According to the social-cognitive model of stigma, PWDs experience psychological harm from stigma resulting from perceived public prejudice and bias and internalizing these negative messages. Therefore, by offering psychosocial education aimed at reducing stigma to the general public, we can help PWDs experience less stigma and reduce the harm it causes in workplaces, healthcare, and educational settings. Second, we should conduct person-centered research rather than variable-centered approaches to reduce stigma against PWDs. This

is because PWDs have different life experience and psychosocial adaptation related to disability even if the disability is same. Therefore, researchers who conduct the study of PWDs try to find out the uniqueness of each subject. In the point of view, the traditional research method using variable-centered approach such as T-test, ANOVA, or correlation/regression have limitation of capturing each participants characteristic. So, researchers in RC field try to use the person-centered approach such as multilevel modeling and ecological momentary assessment, and so on. In other words, the researcher in RC field focuses on the within-person effect as well as between-person effect. Such research can serve as important evidence for policymaking and advocacy efforts aimed at reducing stigma against PWDs.

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Detailed Overview of ARCA Pre-Conference Symposium Presentations

Presentation: *Future of Rehabilitation Counseling: Insights from Past, Present, and Emerging Leaders*

- **Presentation Overview:** Embark on an exploration of a critical juncture for rehabilitation counseling. Investigate perspectives of 43 rehabilitation counseling educators across three career phases to navigate the profession's evolution and envision its trajectory. Identify key themes to plot a roadmap for the field of rehabilitation counseling's transformation, such as honoring traditional values, bridging a unified professional identity, addressing vulnerabilities, and elevating rehabilitation counseling through leadership and collaboration to empower individuals with disabilities, promote equity, and shape an inclusive future.
- **Presenters:** Jina Chun, PhD, CRC
 - Allison Levine, PhD, NCC, CRC, tLMHC
 - Michael Hartley, PhD, CRC
 - Connie Richard, MFA, MS, CRC
 - Andrea Nerlich, PhD, CRC, CVE
 - Allison Fleming, PhD, CRC

Presentation: *Factors Contributing to Burnout Among Public Sector Rehabilitation Counselors*

- **Presentation Overview:** A hidden handicap of rehabilitation counselors is burnout due to the particular demands of providing services to persons with disabilities. In this presentation, participants will help learn to identify factors that contribute to burnout. As rehabilitation counselors it is vital to increase and promote on own personal wellness. Together we will walk through burnout as it relates to job demand, job control, and job support. In addition, discuss how burnout affects public sector rehabilitation and identify ways to promote wellness in the field.
- **Presenter:** Monica E. Alharazim, PhD, LPC-S, CRC

Presentation: *ARCA Task Force: Identifying Disability-Related Competencies in Clinical Supervision*

- **Presentation Overview:** This presentation will highlight identified clinical supervision best practices for supervising supervisees with disabilities—both from clinical supervisors who have worked with supervisees with disabilities as well as counselor education supervisees with disabilities who have had ample experience receiving supervision from qualified supervisors. The presenters will share their research results to better support current and future supervisors when supervising supervisees with disabilities.
- **Presenters:** Daniel Balva, PhD, LMHC, NCC, CRC
 - Christine Sacco-Bene, PhD, LMHC, LPC, NCC, CRC

Presentation: *Family Systems Theories: A Creative Approach to Advocacy and Social Justice*

- **Presentation Overview:** Drawing on interventions from family systems and family-oriented theories, together presenters and attendees will explore creative ways these theories can be implemented to support advocacy and social justice efforts when working with individuals with disabilities and other traditionally marginalized and disadvantaged individuals and families.
- **Presenters:** Christine Sacco-Bene, PhD, LMHC, LPC, NCC, CRC
 - Michael Walsh, PhD, LPC, CRC

Presentation: *Counselors Get in The Game: Using ESports in Rehabilitation and Recovery*

- **Presentation Overview:** Explore the use of Esports in counseling rehabilitation and recovery to unveil the truth behind its benefits for persons with disabilities and/or comorbid diagnoses. Implementation of propitious resilience interventions, such as multi-modal combinations of esports and enhancement of self-regulation skills are explored.
- **Presenter:** Farren Stackhouse, Ph.D., LPC, LCMHC, C-DBT, BC-TMH

Presentation: *Distance Counseling, Distance Education, and Distance Supervision: Legal and Ethical Duties*

- **Presentation Overview:** What does the law (federally and state level) have in place regarding the use of technology in the distance learning, counseling, and supervision process? What ethical obligations do counselors have to best be prepared to appropriately and competently learn, teach, practice, or supervise in the distance format? What does literature and research have to say about diversity and inclusion in distance counseling, distance education, and distance supervision? Come find out!
- **Presenter:** Dustin Reed, PhD, LPC (LA), LIMHP (NE), NCC, CRC

Presentation: *More Than Just Tired: The Effects of Fatigue on Employment for Individuals with Multiple Sclerosis*

- **Presentation Overview:** The goal of this presentation is to showcase 1) how individuals with MS describe their fatigue as reported in qualitative studies, 2) microaggressions relating to fatigue, 3) statistics regarding how fatigue affects employment, and 4) questions to ask clients with MS that demonstrate a deeper understanding of fatigue.
- **Presenter:** Danielle Bourgeon

Presentation: *Cognitive Performance Differences as a Function of Depression Levels in Older Adults*

- **Presentation Overview:** Participants will learn of an investigative strategy utilizing secondary data sets and will gain a greater understanding of the relationship between cognitive functioning and levels of depression in older adults. Participants should exit the presentation with a greater appreciation of the role that depressive characteristics can play on cognitive functioning and will learn to recognize the impact of age-related cognitive decline on mental well-being and quality of life in older adults.
- **Presenters:** Raquel Nunez, B.S.
 - George W. Hebert, Ph.D.

Presentation: *Unlocking Wealth Through Disability Related Counselorpreneurship*

- **Presentation Overview:** This session explores leveraging disability related counseling expertise for multiple income streams. Topics include evaluations/assessments (vocational, DOT substance abuse, sexual risk/harm), supervision, coaching, and social security expert witness testimony. Attendees gain insights into opportunities, marketing, and income potential. Practical tips for attracting clients and navigating each income stream are provided.
- **Presenters:** Paige N. Dunlap, Ph.D., LCMHC-S, LPC, CRC, NCC, ACS, BCC, CVE
 - Quintin Boston, Ph.D., LPC, CRC
 - Caroline Booth, PhD, LCMHC-S, NCC, ACS, BC-TMH, BCC
 - Deauna Froneberger, M.S., LCMHC, LCPC, LCAS, ICAADC, CRC, CLCP

Presentation: *Disability Adjustment Counseling: From Theory to Rehabilitation on Counseling Practice*

- **Presentation Overview:** In an interactive presentation we examine recent research by our team on the practice of adjustment counseling, describe how acceptance of disability research has expanded to incorporate disability identity and disability culture, with empowering implications, and a growing recognition of the implications of social and cultural diversity in understanding the experience of living with a disability. We propose a roadmap for the development of education and practice.
- **Presenters:** Malachy Bishop, Ph.D., CRC
 - Constance Richard, MFA, MS, CRC
 - Kaiqi Zhou, PhD, CRC, LPC-IT
 - Jaeyoung (Jay) Kim, Ph.D.
 - Sara Park, MS, CRC, LPC-IT
 - Eunjeong Ko, MS.

Presentation: *The Case for Case Conceptualization*

- **Presentation Overview:** If someone asks you what you're missing at work, chances are, "Case Conceptualization" is not on that list. Let us show you how this process can help you organize your efforts, focus your sessions, and anticipate roadblocks.
- **Presenters:** Jennifer Hunsaker, MSS
 - Trent Landon, PhD, CRC, A-CMHC
 - Michael Gerald, PhD, LCMHC, LMHC (Iowa), CRC

Presentation: *An Investigation of Gender and Hearing/Visual Impairments on Depression Levels*

- **Presentation Overview:** This current investigation investigated male/female depression score differences on individuals who self-report a hearing impairment, a visual impairment, or both. Secondary data sets from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were used for this study and results showed both group and gender differences between all ability types. The findings suggest the inclusion of a brief depression screener as part of their basic assessment protocol for individuals with documented vision and/or hearing impairments.
- **Presenters:** George Hebert, Ph
 - Holly Walters, Ph.D., LPC-S, CRC
 - Erin M. Dugan, Ph.D., NCC, CRC, LPC- S

Presentation: *Courtesy stigma and life satisfaction among caregivers of youth with IDD*

- **Presentation Overview:** This study examined the effects of courtesy stigma on stress perceptions and life satisfaction among caregivers of youth with IDDs and the mediating roles of self-compassion and social support. Findings from the study suggest the detrimental outcomes of courtesy stigma and the mechanisms of buffering factors. They underscore the importance of implementing interventions to reduce courtesy stigma while also fostering self-compassion and access to social support.
- **Presenters.** Eun-Jeong Lee, PhD
 - Sang Qin, PhD, CRC, LPC
 - Jinhee Park, Ph.D., CRC

Presentation: *In-Between Cultural Identity: A Disability-Informed Intersectional Model*

- **Presentation Overview:** Many rehabilitation counseling clients have intersecting cultural identities that involve feeling "in-between" different cultures but not fully part of any one culture. Session participants

will learn about factors that affect the cultural identity development of people “in-between” cultures, focusing on disability and intersectionality. Examples of specific resources to provide support for people living “in-between” will be discussed.

- **Presenters:** Christine Reid, PhD, CRC, CLCP
 - Wagnanesh Zeleke, EdD, LCPC, NCC

Presentation: *Role of Self-Advocacy in the Psychosocial Adaptation of Individuals with Single-Sided Deafness*

- **Presentation Overview:** The presentation will provide practical advice for rehabilitation counselors to facilitate and support self-advocacy among their clients with SSD, and to demonstrate how self-advocacy can enhance the psychosocial well-being and empowerment of individuals with SSD. The presentation will also highlight the need for cultural sensitivity and adaptation when applying self-advocacy interventions to diverse populations.
- **Presenter:** Wanying (Christine) Sui, B.S.

Presentation: *Transition Readiness Toolkit: A Tool to Promote Data-Driven Pre-ETS*

- **Presentation Overview:** State VR agencies are rapidly expanding pre-employment transition services mandated by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Investment in these services is at an all-time high but evidence for these services is still limited. In this presentation we describe a new software (The Transition Readiness Toolkit) being used in multiple state agencies to evaluate effectiveness of services and promote data-driven clinical decisions. We conclude with a discussion of how findings are beginning to shape practice.
- **Presenters:** Brian Phillips, PhD, CRC
 - Allison Fleming, PhD, CRC

Presentation: *Empowering Youth: A Comprehensive Approach to Addressing Suicidality in Pre ETS-Youth and Marginalized Communities*

- **Presentation Overview:** Pre-ETS youth face significant challenges in navigating various areas of academia, potential employment, and the diverse nature of their makeup. They are disproportionately affected by exposure to violence, witnessing traumatic events, and victimization. These experiences increase the risk of mental health issues, addiction, and suicide. Suicide is the second-leading cause of mortality among adolescents in the United States, and data shows that this has increased among minority youth. Disabilities impact individuals across diverse demographics, making it a significant aspect of societal diversity. The need for specialized interventions, especially for youth with disabilities who are at risk for suicide, has gained increased attention in recent research. This presentation explores the imperative for rehabilitation counselors to augment their roles in addressing suicidality among this vulnerable population.
- **Presenters:** Michelle Mitcham, PhD, LMHC-Q, NCC, CCMHC, CFM
 - Michelle Bradham-Cousar, PhD, CRC, CVE, LMHC, NCC
 - Kerri C.L. McCullough, EdD, LPC, LCPC, NCC
 - Natalie Silver, B.S.

Presentation: *Facilitating Anti-Ableist Disability Awareness in Counseling and Supervision*

- **Presentation Overview:** Nearly 30% of the US population has some type of disability, though, counselors may not feel equipped to recognize and address ableism, ensure access, and provide disability-competent care. The oppressive, values-based system of ableism has resulted in the devaluation of disabled people

across educational, economic, and healthcare settings. This session will provide skills to confront one's own beliefs about disability, examine where ableism is imbedded, and promote a strengths-based approach.

- **Presenters:** K. Lynn Pierce, PhD, LPC, CRC, ACS
 - Toni Saia, PhD, CRC, LAC
 - Allison Levine, PhD, NCC, CRC
 - Mari Guillermo, EdD, CRC
 - Allison Fleming, PhD, CRC
 - Andrea Nerlich, PhD, CRC, CVE

Presentation: *Dreams Do Come True: Supporting Counseling Students with Disabilities*

- **Presentation Overview:** Historically counseling students with disabilities (SWD) have had educational barriers in higher education. This engaging 30-minute presentation will first provide a brief rationale of historical educational barriers SWD faces. Secondly, participants will explore a toolkit of hacks, tips, and disability-affirmative teaching strategies. Finally, participants will walk away with a toolkit aimed to develop the counselor educator to continue to build an elusive learning environment for SWDs.
- **Presenter:** Olivia Fadul, MS, LPCC (NM); NV (CPC)

Presentation: *A Dyadic Approach to Disability Adjustment: An Exploratory Study*

- **Presentation Overview:** As Parkinson's Disease leads to the need for caregiving and the stress of that role leads to caregiver burden, there is a shared experience between the spouse adjusting to disability and the spouse managing the stressors that accompany caregiving. These shared experiences have a cyclical nature and inevitably alter the nature of the spousal relationship. Through a survey we identify information important to adjustment to disability. The results can inform the response to working with spouses in disability adjustment.
- **Presenter:** Megan J Baumunk, MS, CRC, CVE, LPC-IT

Presentation: *Essential Components for Effective Co-Supervision in Rehabilitation Counseling*

- **Presentation Overview:** The current study introduced the co-supervision model in the rehabilitation counseling setting. The study findings showed the structure, benefits for both supervisors and supervisees, and challenges of the co-supervision model. In addition, the study proposed successful guidelines and/or tips for applying the co-supervision model. The study sheds new light on the supervision model in the rehabilitation counseling setting.
- **Presenters:** Yongsu Song, MS
 - Jina Chun, PhD, CRC
 - Megan Baumunk, MS, CRC, CVE, LPC-IT

Presentation: *Addressing Unique Transportation Challenges with Emerging Innovations*

- **Presentation Overview:** This presentation will aim to 1) Increase Understanding: Educate about transportation challenges for individuals with disabilities, including paratransit issues and accommodation shortcomings, 2) Raise Awareness: Highlight the social justice impact of transportation inequities, emphasizing exclusion from essential life events, and 3) Offer solutions: Provide strategies for improving transportation accessibility, including policy advocacy, technological innovations, and inclusive education programs.

- **Presenter:** Natalie Reyes

Presentation: *Integrating Aspects of Person-Centered Play Therapy for Best Practices in Rehabilitation Counseling*

- **Presentation Overview:** Attendees will learn to identify common themes and outcomes between Play Therapy and rehabilitation counseling through anecdotal illustrations and research based evidential training. Attendees will also gain practical skills in the Person-Centered approach, through role play and presenter modeling, learning that Play Therapy is a way of being, not a technique. Additionally, attendees will understand and broach important cultural considerations when working with clients of multiple intersecting identities.
- **Presenter:** Amber Brasher

Presentation: *Clinical Supervision: Assessing Non-Verbal Counseling Techniques with Counselors-In-Training with Blindness and Low Vision*

- **Presentation Overview:** Attendees will identify a minimum of two clinical supervision accommodations/intervention areas of possible training needs for Undergraduate, Graduate, and practitioner/counselors with blindness and low vision. Attendees will also be introduced to the anthropological concepts of kinesics, paralanguage and proxemics. Additionally, attendees will be able to independently describe the application of kinesics, paralanguage and proxemics in a clinical supervision setting with counselors-in-training with blindness and low vision.
- **Presenter:** Robert Parsons, Jr., M. A., CRC, CVRT, LLC

Presentation: *Recidivism and Employment: How Can Vocational Rehabilitation Create Change for the Ex-Offender Population*

- **Presentation Overview:** Attendees will gain an understanding of the impact of fulfilling and suitable employment on recidivism: By examining the relationship between employment and recidivism, attendees will gain insights into the role of employment in reducing the likelihood of ex-offenders reoffending. This presentation will also explore employer concerns and perspectives: Attendees will learn about the challenges and apprehensions that employers may have regarding hiring ex-offenders, including concerns about people skills and customer discomfort, which can provide a deeper understanding of the barriers ex-offenders face in obtaining employment. Further, attendees will identify effective interventions and support systems: The lecture will focus on exploring tailored interventions and support mechanisms that can facilitate successful employment placement for ex-offenders, thereby contributing to their reintegration into society and reducing recidivism rates.
- **Presenter:** Parisa Moradi

Presentation: *Adapting or Succumbing? Uncovering the Pivotal Factors in the Journey Through Mental Illness*

- **Presentation Overview:** This presentation aims to examine whether coping, self-stigma, optimism, and hope mediate the relationship between psychiatric symptom severity and adaptation to disability among adults with psychiatric disabilities. Findings and implications for rehabilitation counselors and researchers will be discussed.
- **Presenters:** Dr. Deyu Pan, Ph.D., CRC

- Sang Qin, PhD, CRC, LPC
- Xin Zou, LPC, LMHC
- Jiayi Fu, LMHC

Presentation: *Promoting Informed Career Decisions with Clients Working with Multiple Sclerosis*

- **Presentation Overview:** People living with multiple sclerosis (MS) and other chronic conditions often leave careers before they want or need to, often without planning or knowing the potential psychosocial or financial impacts. Through a national survey we identified the resources and information important to people with MS in making informed career decisions. The results inform rehabilitation counselor response in working with people with chronic health conditions.
- **Presenters:** Malachy Bishop, Ph.D., CRC
 - Megan J Baumunk, MS, CRC, CVE, LPC-IT
 - Sara Park, MS, CRC, LPC-IT
 - Eunjeong Ko, MS

Presentation: *Rehabilitation Training on Climate Change Related Extreme Weather Events and Disability*

- **Presentation Overview:** The presentation is aimed at providing training for rehabilitation professionals to address climate change impact of extreme weather events in people with disabilities and chronic illness. The presenter aims to inform the audience of the relationship between climate change, health equity, and quality of life in chronic illness/disability populations. The presentation is an opportunity for rehabilitation counselors to reflect on personal narrative, values, ethics, and actions regarding disability and identify how these align with the climate goals of our institutions and organizations. Attendees will learn about considerations to address climate and health issues specific to disability and apply the learned knowledge via communication and interaction with colleagues, consumers, health systems, the public, and policy makers.
- **Presenter:** Uzma Khan, MS

Presentation: *Adjustment Counseling for Persons with Chronic Illness and Disability*

- **Presentation Overview:** If you think adjustment counseling is just for mental health counselors, think again! Let us help you rethink the role you play in your clients' adjustment to chronic illness and disability while offering practical ways you can improve client (and counselor!) experiences.
- **Presenters:** Jennifer Hunsaker, MSS
 - Trent Landon, PhD, CRC, A-CMHC
 - Michael Gerald, PhD, LCMHC, LMHC, CRC

Presentation: *Navigating Change: Lobbying for Progress in Rehabilitation Counseling and Disability Advocacy*

- **Presentation Overview:** Our lobbying program is dedicated to navigating the dynamic landscape of rehabilitation counseling and disability advocacy. Participants will engage in discussions surrounding legislative challenges, innovative solutions, and effective strategies to drive positive change. This session will empower attendees to become influential advocates, contributing to advancing rehabilitation counseling and individuals with disabilities' quality of life.
- **Presenters:** Chrisann Schiro-Geist, PhD
 - Quiteya Walker, PhD, LCMHCA, NCC, CRC