



AMERICAN REHABILITATION
COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

A Division of the American Counseling Association

APRIL 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND ANNUAL REPORT

DANIEL BALVA, PH.D., LMHC, NCC, CRC

Dear ARCA Members,

And just like that, we made it to April of the 2023-2024 term! It is hard to believe how quickly time has been flying, but with each passing day, I grow more and more excited about the future of our association, which is coupled with heartfelt pride in the meaningful contributions of our membership at large. Our membership—comprised of rehabilitation counselors in the public sector, private sector, in forensics, and in education, alongside our rehabilitation counseling students, work hard each day to foster a more inclusive society through the work they do, and on behalf of ARCA, I hope you know just how grateful we are of the impactful contributions you each make to our profession and society at large, day in and day out. Our association would not be what it is without each of you, and for that, please accept my sincere gratitude for all that you do.

Throughout the term thus far, your Executive Board and Region Representatives have been working hard to ensure that ARCA continues to serve as a home to those in our profession, an educational resource to the counseling profession at large, and an association in which we can all take pride. In striving to make this overarching goal a reality, I am pleased to share the following accomplishments from our association throughout the 2023-2024 term thus far—none of which would be possible without the dedication of our Executive Board, Region Representatives, and membership at large.

LOGISTICS

ARCA Website. This year, ARCA invested in the services of a new web-developer to launch an updated, more easily accessible website (<https://arcaweb.org>) with resources to members and the larger counseling community including access to educational disability resources, a repository of prior ARCA webinars, and information on disability-related public policy and legislation. The ability for ARCA Leadership to edit the website more easily will also help save ARCA money in the long-term.

ARCA Continuing Education Provider (CEU) Status for CRCC, CVE and NBCC. ARCA has continued to serve as a CE provider for CRC, CVE, and NBCC CEs, and we are proud to share that our provider status has been renewed so that we can continue offering quality programming for our members and members of the larger counseling community.



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THE MISSION OF ARCA. . . .

The mission of the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA) is to enhance the development of people with disabilities throughout their lifespan and to promote best practices in the rehabilitation counseling profession. ARCA’s goal is to provide leadership that will encourage excellence in rehabilitation counseling practice, research, consultation, and professional development. ARCA is equally interested in eliminating attitudinal, political, and physical barriers so that more opportunities are available in education, employment, and community activities to people with disabilities. This is accomplished through public education, systems advocacy, and legislative action.

YOUR 2023-2024 ARCA LEADERSHIP

July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

ARCA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Dr. Daniel Balva

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Dr. Paige Dunlap

PAST PRESIDENT

Dr. Valerie Dixon

TREASURER

Dr. Dustin Reed

SECRETARY

Dr. Maureen McGuire-Kuletz

ACA GOVERNING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. Mike Hartley

ARCA BOARD MEMBERS

DEVELOPMENT AND COLLABORATION DIRECTOR

Dr. Michelle Bradham-Cousar

ORGANIZATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Dr. Christine Sacco-Bene

PUBLIC POLICY, PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND STANDARDS DIRECTOR

Dr. Randall Boen

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND AWARENESS DIRECTOR

Dr. Taryn Richardson

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE DIRECTOR

Dr. Amanda Tashjian

ARCA STUDENT TASK FORCE REPRESENTATIVE

Alexis Duggan

REHABILITATION COUNSELING BULLETIN EDITORS

Dr. Fong Chan

Dr. Tim Tansey

ARCA OFFICE

Vickie Leeming, Office Manager

arcaoffice@arcaweb.org

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President's Message and Annual Report Continued

Collaboration with ARCA Office Manager. We have been working with Vickie, ARCA's Office Manager on creating more established processes for ARCA (e.g., creating established procedures for ARCA webinar templates, email communication to members, CE provision-related procedures, etc.). We will also be working with Vickie on creating an ARCA Operations Manual to help formalize important ARCA-related information in order to ensure organizational safekeeping and sustainability.

Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin (RCB). As of January 2024, all ARCA members have transitioned to receive electronic copies of the RCB. Information on how ARCA members and new members can access RCB online (for those who have never before created an account) is now listed on ARCA website to make this information more easily accessible.

Increased Communication with ACA. Alongside our Treasurer, we have been engaged in increased communication with ACA Accounting Specialists to ensure financial stability and security for ARCA and proper accounting practices and procedures. We have also been in active communication with the ACA CEO and CFO to provide feedback about ACA-related concerns (e.g., increased mandated MSA costs, per ACA) and areas of improvement for ACA on behalf of ARCA.

RESOURCES

New ARCA Award & 2024 Award Submission Review. This year, ARCA approved and launched a new award, the Rehabilitation Counselor Educator of the Year Award which aims to recognize outstanding ARCA members who foster excellence, accessibility, innovation, and compassion as an Educator within the classroom setting. In addition to several worthy candidates who were nominated for this award, we had twenty nominations across our seven ARCA awards—all of whom have made significant contributions to our profession thus far.

Promotional & Educational Video Initiative. This year, we requested recorded responses to pre-written prompts sent out to ARCA members, and we incorporated the resulting videos into a promotional and educational product aimed to bring greater light and awareness to the importance of rehabilitation counseling, what it means to have a disability, what counselors should know when working with clients with disabilities, and the benefits of being an ARCA member. The finished products are proudly displayed on the ARCA website and can also be found on ARCA YouTube account:

Important Considerations When Counseling & Advocating for Persons with Disabilities:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mhVduKS81k>

Having a Disability, Being a Rehabilitation Counselor, & Joining ARCA:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eua9XjqRRU&t=1s>

ARCA Task Force on Clinical Competencies for Supervising Trainees with Disabilities. During 2022-2023, ARCA launched this important Task Force, which has since been conducting a Delphi Study to help bring greater attention to clinical competencies for supervising trainees with disabilities. Data collection for the Task Force is nearing completion, and we are excited for the next steps to move closer to making this an important staple and resource within the profession.

PROGRAMMING

ARCA Pre-Conference Symposium: Celebrating 65 Years of ARCA. Members of our Pre-Conference Symposium Task Force have dedicated the last few months to planning a meaningful opportunity for learning, networking, and community, in collaboration with the Counseling program at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) School of Allied Health on April 10, 2024. At the time of this report, we had 75 individuals registered for the Pre-Conference Symposium, which is planned to have 24 concurrent sessions and offer up to 4.5 NBCC, CRC, and CVE CEs for attendees.

ARCA Programming At ACA Conference & Expo. We have been working hard to plan exciting and thought-provoking programming at the 2024 ACA Conference & Expo that will feature opportunities to learn from local disability advocates within New Orleans, and we hope that our members will enjoy these programs. We have also established a collaboration with the ACA's Military and Government Counseling Association (MGCA) and ACA's Southern Region, and we are eager to co-host our Joint Reception with them during this year's ACA Conference & Expo.

ARCA Virtual Learning Institute. We have been planning a Virtual Learning Institute that will take place throughout the month of May 2024 and will comprise pre-recorded presentations, during which time attendees will obtain access to a landing page with pre-recorded presentation links and can view sessions at their own time throughout the month. Our hope is to offer increase opportunities for professional development presentations, learning, networking, and collaboration to ARCA members—especially for those who were not able to attend our in-person programming in New Orleans this year.

ARCA June Month-Long Webinar Series. We have been planning a month-long webinar series which will take place throughout month of June 2024 with the goal of promoting disability awareness and the importance of rehabilitation counseling to broader counseling community. This program will comprise two webinars each Friday throughout the month of June, which will offer CRC, CVE, and NBCC CEs for attendees.

ARCA Monthly Webinar Series. This year, ARCA has implemented a monthly webinar series focused on diverse educational topics—both for rehabilitation professionals and for the counseling profession at large. These webinars offer CRC, CVE, and NBCC CEs and serve as a membership benefit, as they are free for ARCA members and are provided at a cost to non-ARCA members. The webinars, to date, have had approximately 300 attendees and have been profitable for ARCA, as there has also been a correlation with increased ARCA membership.

MEMBERSHIP

Increased ARCA Membership. We have been working with our ARCA Region Representatives on reaching out to different institutions and community stakeholders to increase membership recruitment efforts. This included reaching out to all rehabilitation counseling program directors across the country and sharing information about ARCA, and in the upcoming months, we will contact state VR agencies as well. Through these efforts and increased programming, we are excited to report that ARCA has had an increase in membership throughout this term thus far with 542 ARCA members indicated as of June 2023 (which was reported by ACA on July 15, 2023) and 608 ARCA members indicated as of January 2024 (which was reported by ACA on February 15, 2024). We will continue to emphasize the goal of increasing our membership so that ARCA's impact on the larger counseling profession can be even greater.

ARCA Membership Involvement. At the beginning of the term and in the subsequent months, we emailed the ARCA membership with opportunities for membership involvement across the different ARCA Councils and available Committees, which numerous members took advantage of. We have also revised email correspondence to new and renewing ARCA members to share opportunities for involvement in regional advocacy efforts within ARCA so that we

President’s Message and Annual Report Continued

can continue to increase membership involvement and leadership efforts. We are excited to share that there are monthly advocacy meetings taking place between our Council on Public Policy, Professional Preparation and Standards as well as our Region Representatives and interested ARCA members.

COLLABORATIONS

Increased ACA Inter-Divisional Collaboration. At the beginning of this term, ARCA reached out to various ACA divisions to request collaborations throughout the year. This has resulted in a designated ARCA session at the SAIGE Virtual Conference in July 2024, “Using the Disability Justice Framework to Broach Sexuality and Gender with Clients” presented by Dr. Alie Kriofske Mainella and Dr. Emily Lund, a co-hosted webinar with AADA in December 2024, “Navigating College for Students with Disabilities,” a joint reception with MGCA and the ACA’s Southern Region at the 2024 ACA Conference & Expo, a SAIGE and AADA sponsored session at ARCA’s Virtual Learning Institute in May, and collaborative monthly meetings with ACA Division Presidents to further discuss interdivisional collaborations.

Rehabilitation Counseling Collaborations. ARCA has reached out to several rehabilitation counseling organizations to facilitate greater unity and collaboration within the profession. This has included outreach to the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA), National Rehabilitation Counseling Association (NRCA), American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association (ADARA), and National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC)—particularly as it relates to the Virtual Learning Institute. It is our hope that ARCA can continue to build bridges with fellow rehabilitation counseling organizations to foster a greater sense of professional unity.



**PRESIDENT-ELECT’S ANNUAL REPORT
PAIGE N. DUNLAP, PH.D., LCMHC-S, LPC, CRC,
NCC, ACS, CVE**

This year has been quite eventful as ARCA continues to pursue its goals and mission! As the President-Elect, I have strived to support the President in his efforts to be member-inclusive and grow the membership. Below is a snapshot of a few items I have been working on throughout the year.

I have had the opportunity to serve on the Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling Coalition (VRCC). The group is comprised of leaders from other rehabilitation counseling organizations and strives for collaboration and awareness of rehabilitation related information.

As a leader in an ACA Division and in a constituent area of Sen. Thom Tillis, I was asked to be part of group to represent ACA in a meeting the with Senator's team to discuss the Senate's bipartisan Mental Health Caucus which focuses on the importance of the counseling profession post COVID-19. The meeting went well, and I was able to advocate for access to services, especially for those with disabilities and also reimbursement rate increases.

I have convened a committee to support ARCA's effort to spread disability related advocacy to other communities. The committee is working with NBCC's Global Institutes to host an institute in Trinidad and Tobago in 2025.

I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have and to help you find opportunities to join ARCA in our many endeavors!



ACA CONFERENCE & EXPO 2024

APRIL 11—13 | NEW ORLEANS

We are excited to present our ARCA Programming and Reception/Awards Ceremony Schedule at the American Counseling Association (ACA) 2024 Conference & Expo to be held on **Thursday, April 11 and Friday April 12, 2024.**

For those attending in person, all of ARCA’s Thursday working events will be held at the third floor of the ACA headquarter hotel:

Hilton Riverside New Orleans – Third Floor
Two Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

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

10:00 am – 12:00 pm (Central Time)

Learning and Doing Advocacy and Self Advocacy: Discussions 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

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (Central Time)

ARCA Membership Meeting & Virtual Award Ceremony

For those who would like to join us for Thursday’s programming via ZOOM, no registration is required. Just log in during the presentation times. You will be placed in a waiting room and admitted by the host at the appropriate time. Please note, CEs are approved for in-person attendance only.

***ARCA Joint Reception
with MGCA Division &
ACA Southern Region***

Date

Friday, April 12, 2024

Time

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location

Hilton Riverside
New Orleans,
Grand Salon C
Section 13 - 16
First Floor




Zoom Login Information

[https://us06web.zoom.us/
j/83169781488?
pwd=80yKfymfalXyvKJcv19j
MmzXZCIp.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83169781488?pwd=80yKfymfalXyvKJcv19jMmzXZCIp.1)

Meeting ID: 831 6978 1488
Passcode: 24147



PAST PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT VALERIE DIXON, PH.D., CRC, LMHC, NCC

Greetings ARCA membership,

I am pleased to report on the following highlights:

ARCA Elections and Results 2023-2024 Cycle:

1. Worked with Vickie Leeming, ARCA Office Manager, to create an Eblast to membership regarding to open ARCA Board positions.
2. Developed and submitted the following ARCA Board open positions for election cycle to ACA:

ARCA Elections Slate Nominations

President-Elect (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025)

Cayte Anderson
Christine Sacco-Bene
Chung-Yi Chui

Governing Council Representative (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027)

Michael Hartley
Katherine Kline

Director, Research and Knowledge (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027)

Kanako Iwanaga
Allison Levine
Jinhee Park

Director, Organization, Administration and Management Committee (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027)

Monica E. Alharazim
Reginald Gladney
Trent Landon

North Atlantic Region Representative (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027)

Andrea Nerlich

3. Sent out notification communication to all winners. Results of Election are identified herein:

ARCA 2023-2024 Election Results

President-Elect Total Voters: 557

Choice	Votes	Percentage
Christine Sacco-Bene	62	.70
Chung-Yi Chiu	27	.30

ARCA Director, Organization, Administration, and Management Council Total Voters: 557

Choice	Votes	Percentage
Trenton Landon	64	.75
Reginald Gladney	11	0.13
Monica Alharazim	10	0.12

ARCA Director, Research and Knowledge Total Voters: 557

Choice	Votes	Percentage
Allison Levine	36	0.41
Jinhee Park	26	0.30
Kanako Iwanaga	25	0.29

ARCA North Atlantic Region Representative – Uncontested Total Voters: 99

Choice	Votes	Percentage
Andrea Nerlich	13	1

ARCA Governing Council Representative Total Voters: 557

Choice	Votes	Percentage
Michael Hartley	55	0.63
Katherine Kline	32	0.37

Congratulations to all the new and returning ARCA Executive Board Members!

Congratulations!

Past President's Annual Report Continued

Unification Effort Updates

4. ARCA Taskforce/w NCRE Board Members. I appointed former NCRE members to open ARCA board positions. Other former NCRE board members were encouraged to remain actively involved and open to being a member on upcoming ARCA President continuing education and webinar committees.
5. The VRCC formally invited the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA) to rejoin the coalition. The Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling Coalition (VRCC) is comprised of organizations in the field of rehabilitation counseling. With the approval of ARCA Board members, it was recommended that ARCA would rejoin the coalition and Dr. Paige Dunlap, ARCA President-Elect was appointed to represent ARCA on VRCC.

Collaboration Activities

6. Attended the ARCA/University of Puerto Rico two-day Collaboration CEU Community Training and Service Project in Puerto Rico.
7. Continued to work with ARCA office manager to create an Eblast to membership regarding to purchase marketing items (Polo shirts). Subsequently mailed shirts to members who purchased them.
8. Worked with President to review and score multiple ARCA awards information submissions.
9. Attending meetings with President -Elect and Director of Organization, Administration and Management in pre-planning for ARCA international symposium and outreach activities for 2025. Planning for these events is ongoing.



ARCA TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

DUSTIN HERBERT REED, PHD, LIMHP (NE), LPC (LA), NCC, CRC, ALICE

Hello everyone from your Treasurer, Dustin Herbert Reed. Since the beginning of my term, July 1, 2023, it has been a busy year. I will provide a bullet list of the major activities I have been involved in during the 2023 – 2024 term thus far as your Treasurer:

Summary of Treasurer Activities:

- Reviewing and approving ACA's monthly MSA charges (\$24.53 per member in fiscal year 2023—an increase from \$15.95 per member in fiscal year 2022).
- Approving payments for Continuing Education Provider Status with CRCC and NBCC.
- Approving payments for student awards.
- Approving payments for the reconstruction of the ARCA website.
- Making sure our Office Manager is getting paid for the many functions she performs.
- Approving payments to the Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin.
- Working with the president and other board members on ARCA preconference, ACA conference, and the ARCA virtual conference programs.
- Working with ACA CFO, accounting management, account payables, the ARCA president, and other members of the board to clarify member service agreements and other accounting areas of concern.
- Monitoring the various funds, assets, and bank reconciliation of the SunTrust and ARCA PayPal account, alongside our office manager and ACA accounting (ARCA is in pretty good shape here).
- Approving costs for various other areas
- Monitoring membership – As of 1/31/2024 we have over 600 active members.
- **Monitoring the income from webinars, based on non-ARCA member participation.**

I am honored to be your Treasurer. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. A copy of the detailed Treasurer's Report is available upon request.



ARCA SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

**MAUREEN MCGUIRE-
KULETZ, ED.D., CRC**

Greetings,

I am pleased to report on the following highlights:

- Send out monthly ARCA Board Meeting Agendas and facilitate collection of Council and Region Representative Reports.
- Attend and document monthly Executive Board meetings and archive approved minutes.
- Ensure access to ARCA Board Members and Region Representatives to ARCA Dropbox account.



ARCA GOVERNING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

**MICHAEL HARTLEY,
PH.D., CRC**

I am pleased to report on the following highlights:

ARCA Accessibility Task Force. Taskforce continued to meet regularly. Team leaders are Olivia Fadul, Toni Saia, Lynn Pierce, and Mike Hartley. A final version of the Accessibility Guidelines was submitted to the ARCA president and are now available on the ARCA website:

<https://arcaweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/ARCA-Accessibility-Report-Final-Report-1.pdf>

The Accessibility Taskforce is presenting on accessibility at the ACA 2024 conference in New Orleans, LA.

Interstate Compact. Worked with ACA to continue monitoring the progress of the Interstate Compact (<https://counselingcompact.org/>). This included conversations between the governing boards of ACA and CACREP regarding counseling identity.

*Governing Council Rep's Report
Continued*

Medicare Reimbursement Now Law. Worked with ACA to advocate for the Mental Health Access Improvement Act (S. 828/H.R. 432). The legislation has given Medicare beneficiaries immediate access to more than 225,000 additional licensed mental health professionals and to help close the widening treatment gap.

<https://www.counseling.org/advocacy/federal-state-issues/medicare-mental-health-workforce-coalition>

ARCA Awards. Worked with the ARCA President to review 2024 nominees for the Specialty Awards and Student Awards recognize outstanding scholars, practitioners, educators, and students in rehabilitation counseling, and will be presented during the ARCA Reception at the American Counseling Association (ACA) Conference and Exposition.

ARCA Pre-Conference to the ACA Conference. Worked with the ARCA President to organize the call for proposals, review of proposals, and schedule of conference presentations at the 2024 pre-conference event. Helped with logistics and planning, including food, space, and transportation.

ACA Leadership.

Continued to work with Executive Director –Shawn E. Boynes, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the ACA as well as the ACA Governing Board.

ARCA COUNCIL DIRECTORS' REPORTS



**MICHELLE
BRADHAM COUSAR,
PH.D., CRC, CVE,
LMHC, NCC**

DIRECTOR, COUNCIL ON COLLABORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Greetings, I am excited to share the following initiatives:

COLLABORATION INITIATIVES:

- A) International Service Project-Trinidad and Tobago-2025
 - Working on establishing the communication for the Monetary Donations and In-kind Donations
- B) Assisted with PayPal Corrections Communication for ARCA office.
- C) Joined ACA Accounting committee on collaboration of ACA Auditing procedures.
- D) RCB conversation to include a Historical issue on an annual basis to include all the Presidents of ARCA as a legacy listing. Provided the listing for Dr. Tansey to work with for the RCB.
- E) The Student Chapter followed up for Puerto Rico and connected with the Student Representative for ARCA.
- F) Attended ACA Southern Region Business meeting and Leadership Institute January 2024.
- G) ACA convention Orlando 2025
 - Establishing contacts and potential collaborations.
- H) ACA convention New Orleans 2024
 - Established contact with the Association for Social Justice spoke with the current President to discuss Conference collaboration efforts.
 - Consult and discuss Conference collaboration efforts with ACA Southern Region Chair.
 - Open to all universities represented to provide monetary or In-Kind donations.

- Established connections for Monetary or In-kind Donations
 - In-Kind Donations commitment:
 - Bethune Cookman
 - Troy University
 - Puerto Rico University
- Communication with other Businesses and Universities
 - Decline by 1
 - Withdrawal of 1, due to wanting an acknowledgment on the website.
- Awaiting response from 4 contacts (Associations, Businesses and Universities)



**RANDALL BOEN,
PH.D., CRC, LCPC**

DIRECTOR, COUNCIL ON PUBLIC RELATIONS AND AWARENESS

The Council has been involved in a verity of projects to promote ARCA and the Rehabilitation Counseling profession including:

- Membership recruitment efforts including new student members.
- Ongoing effort to revamp the organization's website which was released to the public in late December 2023 (<https://arcaweb.org>).
- Collaboration on existing projects to promote the organization.

Future Goals:

- Establishing a quarterly ARCA e-newsletter. This would serve as a platform for highlighting events, member accomplishments, research, etc.
- Continue to engage membership through the website to engage and increasing ARCA participation.

ARCA COUNCIL DIRECTORS' REPORTS (continued)



**CHRISTINE
SACCO-BENE,
PH.D.,
LMHC, NCC,
CRC**

**DIRECTOR, COUNCIL ON
ORGANIZATION, ADMINISTRATION,
AND MANAGEMENT**

Dear ARCA Members,

I am pleased to report on the efforts this year of the ARCA to enhance member benefits and facilitate ongoing professional development. ARCA is committed to providing professional development opportunities and maximizing the value of membership for its members.

This year we were able to offer CEs through the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) for various ARCA-sponsored events. These events include webinars, symposiums, and the Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin (RCB) Journal.

In addition to collaboration with CRCC, ARCA completed the required three-year audit and paid the necessary renewal fee to NBCC. As a result, we continue our commitment to members by offering NBCC credits for ARCA-sponsored events, which are necessary for licensure in many states.

This year I was also honored to be appointed to the Conference Task Force. This group of ARCA Board members worked with other ARCA members and volunteers to plan and organize the Celebrating 65 Years of ARCA: Pre-Conference Symposium and the Virtual Symposium. Our goal was to provide venues for rehabilitation counselor education faculty, rehabilitation counselors, practitioners, and students to share their research, scholarship, and best practices with other rehabilitation counseling professionals.

In addition, I served on the website task force and collaborated with team members to analyze the current website structure, identify areas for improvement, and implement strategic changes. Overall, my experience on

the website task force was highly productive and rewarding, resulting in tangible improvements to the organization's online presence.

I also served on an ARCA Research Task Force that focused on disability competencies within clinical supervision. This task force conducted a Delphi study to solicit requisite knowledge, attitudes, and skills for clinical supervisors to effectively provide supervision to supervisees with disabilities from subject matter experts in the field of counseling. We are hoping to share these outcomes with clinical supervisors across the helping disciplines.

As we look ahead, ARCA remains committed to serving our members and advancing the field of rehabilitation counseling! Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to ARCA.



**AMANDA
TASHJIAN,
PH.D., CRC, LPC,
LCPC**

**DIRECTOR, COUNCIL ON
RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE**

Hi, I am pleased to note the following:

Accomplishments this year:

- Disseminated research participation opportunities when appropriate or solicited by researchers.
- Organized the ARCA Awards call for nominations, review, and selection of entries, ordered award plaques for winners.
- New award was added (Rehab Counselor Educator of the Year).
- The award rubrics were edited, and a more formalized review process for future years was implemented.

ARCA COUNCIL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS (continued)

Director, Council On Research And Knowledge Continued

- Number of applicants for each award:
 - ARCA Doctoral Student of the Year: 1
 - ARCA Masters Student of the Year: 2
 - ARCA Rehabilitation Counselor Award: 2
 - ARCA Rehab Educator Award: 3
 - ARCA Rehab Counselor of the Year Award: 2
 - ARCA Research Award: 8
 - Doctoral Student Research Proposal: 2
 - James F. Garrett Award: 2

For Next Year:

- Earlier call for ARCA awards nominations; would like to establish two blasts to ensure we have a successful nomination pool.
- Vetting next Knowledge and Research Chair into role and orienting them with awards process, award orders and fee/award financial processing.



**TARYN
RICHARDSON, PH.D.,
CRC, NCC**

**DIRECTOR, PUBLIC POLICY,
PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION
AND STANDARDS**

Year-In-Review: The Public Policy, Professional Preparation, and Standards Committee had a productive year focusing on key areas affecting the rehabilitation counseling profession. Here are some highlights:

Legislative Updates: Disseminated timely updates on legislation impacting counselors and persons with disabilities to the ARCA Board.

Policy Dissemination: Shared updates on policies from CACREP that impact rehabilitation counselor educators and programs.

Committee Engagement:

- Fostered active committee membership and increased member involvement with the ARCA Board.
- Provided an annual update on the committee's functioning within the board and the ARCA board at large.

ARCA Website Enhancements:

- Provided updates and feedback on the development of the new ARCA website, focusing on its relevance to the field's legislative history.
- Currently working on developing resources tailored for rehabilitation counselor educators.

ARCA Webinar Series Planning: Identified potential topics for webinars that ARCA can host, focusing on relevant and engaging content for members.

Collaborative Research Proposal: Developed a collaborative research proposal presented to the ARCA Preconference, fostering research initiatives within the community.

Plans for Next Year. Looking ahead to the coming year, the Public Policy, Professional Preparation, and Standards Committee has outlined the following plans:

Continued Legislative Monitoring:

- Maintain focus on legislative developments impacting rehabilitation counseling.
 - Provide updates to the ARCA Board and members to inform practice and policy advocacy.

Professional Development Initiatives: Continue identifying and developing topics for the webinar series, ensuring it remains a valuable resource for professional growth.

Resource Development

- Develop the ARCA website's educator resources section with updated materials and tools.
- Provide resources tailored to support rehabilitation counselor educators in their teaching and practice.

ARCA COUNCIL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS (continued)

Director, Public Policy Report Continued

In conclusion, the Public Policy, Professional Preparation, and Standards Committee had a successful year in advancing the interests of rehabilitation counselors and persons with disabilities.

We are committed to an even more impactful year ahead, focusing on advocacy, professional development, resource enhancement, collaborative research, and continued support for our members.

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration.



**ALEXIS DUGGAN,
M.S., CRC, LPC**

STUDENT TASK FORCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Greetings,

I am pleased to report on the following highlights:

- Secured two speakers for ARCA's monthly webinar series.
- Working with NAMRC to secure a collaboration.
- Organized ACA Conference & Expo tabling events.
- Secured seven student proposal speakers for conference.
- Reviewed proposals and chose ARCA travel award winners.
- Collaborated with President on various events like webinars, student events, and ACA Conference & Expo.

BENEFITS OF ARCA MEMBERSHIP

- Online access to quarterly issues of ARCA's premier journal, the [Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin](#) (RCB).
 - Information about creating your online account to access the RCB can be found [here](#).
- CEs for peer reviewing submissions to the RCB or reading articles in the RCB.
- The ability to obtain CEs (CRC, CVE, and NBCC) through ARCA's Webinar Series and access an online repository of [prior ARCA webinars](#) for continued learning.
- The ability to be nominated for [ARCA Awards](#).
- Opportunities for professional growth and leadership through participation in ARCA sponsored learning [institutes, conferences, and workshops](#).
- Opportunities to network on an annual basis at conferences and annual membership meetings.
- Opportunities to build relationships with ARCA colleagues and expand opportunities for employment and continued professional growth.

ARCA'S WEBSITE

<http://www.arcaweb.org>

- [Membership Updates, Newsletters, and Album Archives](#)
- [Disability Resources and Competencies](#)
- [Webinar Repository of Prior ARCA Webinars](#)
- [Student Resources](#) and [CRC Exam Study Material](#)
- And much more!

ARCA REGION REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS



**JINA CHUN,
PH.D., CRC**

MIDWESTERN REGION REPRESENTATIVE

Year-End Activities include:

- Compiled a list of Rehabilitation Counseling training programs and distributed information about ARCA to Rehabilitation Counseling programs in the Midwest Region.
- Worked with ARCA board members on the ARCA Research Awards and Rehabilitation Counselor Educator of the Year, including reviewing and selecting submissions.
- Participated in the Council for Public Policy, Professional Preparation, and Standards to discuss legislative concerns and develop educational resources for the ARCA website.
- Continued to develop the Midwest Region Committee.

The **Midwest Region** of the American Counseling Association (ACA) represents professional counselors who live and practice in the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. ACA members who reside in any of these are part of the ACA Midwest Region.



**ANDREA
NERLICH, PH.D.,
CRC, CVE**

NORTH ATLANTIC REGION REPRESENTATIVE

This year was a short one, as I stepped in to fill the role of the North Atlantic Region Representative, but along with the other Region Reps, we are collaborating to find new ways to reach out to the members in our region. I assisted in compiling a spreadsheet of member institutions with rehabilitation counseling programs throughout the regions, even including registered undergraduate programs within CoRA. I hope to find other rehabilitation and disability undergraduate programs to begin outreach. The hope across the regions is to identify key partners, such as independent living centers, disability organizations, and research centers, to spread the work of ARCA, solicit opinions, and share information.

My goal for the coming year, now with a full three-year term in the position, is to institute a virtual forum for members to meet and share our desires and concerns for the profession.

The **North Atlantic** of the American Counseling Association (ACA) represents professional counselors who live and practice in the following states, territories, and jurisdictions: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Europe. ACA members who reside in any of these are part of the ACA North Atlantic Region.

ARCA REGION REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS (continued)



QUITEYA D. WALKER, PH.D., LCMHCA, NCC, CRC

SOUTHERN REGION REPRESENTATIVE

I am honored to serve as the **Southern Region** Representative, representing rehabilitation counselors in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Latin America.

Throughout the year, I have responded to individuals from the Southern Region who express an interest in service with ARCA. We welcome anyone who wishes to contribute to the mission and vision of ARCA.

I also reviewed submissions for the ARCA 2024 conference awards. The quality of the submissions reflects the high standards of our profession and the commitment to excellence within our community.

Collaboration has been a key aspect of my work as the Southern Region Representative. I have had the privilege of working closely with my fellow regional representatives and Dr. Taryn Richardson, Chair of the Council of Public Policy, Professional Preparation, and Standards Committee. Together, we have been preparing for an upcoming presentation at the ARCA's Pre-Conference on April 10. This presentation will delve into the important topics of lobbying and disability advocacy, aiming to educate and inspire attendees.

I eagerly look forward to the opportunity to meet you in person in April. It will be a great pleasure to connect with fellow counselors, exchange ideas, and celebrate our collective achievements.



KATIE OSABE, BA, MS, CRC APCC, PSSC

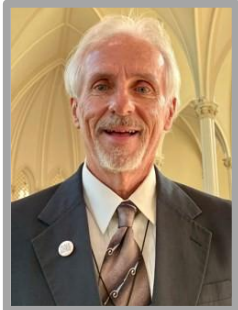
WESTERN REGION REPRESENTATIVE

- Distributed ARCA related emails to local Rehabilitation associations, programs, and professionals within the West Coast region.
- Collected and provided free Continuing Education resources to share with the Council on Public Policy, Professional Preparation and Standards and respective committee.
- Attended ARCA board meetings monthly.
- Attended Taryn Richardson's Council on Public Policy, Professional Preparation and Standards committee meetings representing the West Coast to discuss legislation related concerns.
- Collaborated with ARCA President Daniel Balva with better ways to encourage ARCA memberships and utilization of local resources provided to the public.

The Western Region of the American Counseling Association (ACA) represents professional counselors who live and practice in the following states and jurisdictions: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington State, Wyoming, and the Philippines. ACA members who reside in any of these are part of the ACA Western Region.

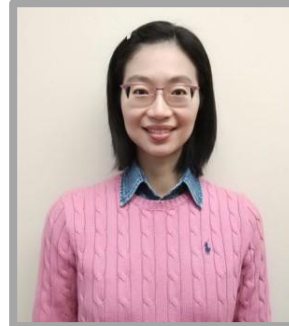
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023-2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS

PROFESSIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS



JAMES F. GARRETT DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN REHABILITATION RESEARCH AWARD

Dr. Henry McCarthy,
Louisiana State University
Health Sciences Center



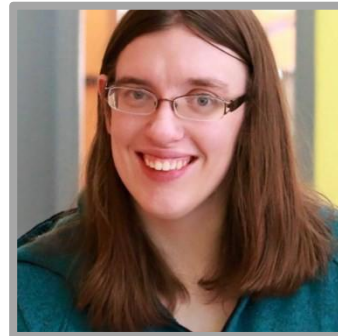
ARCA REHABILITATION COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR

Dr. Chung-Yi Chiu,
University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign



ARCA RESEARCH AWARD

Dr. Emre Umucu, The
University of Texas at
El Paso on “Reducing the
Influence of Perceived
Stress on Subjective Well-
Being of Student Veterans
with and Without
Disabilities: The
Protective Role of Positive
Traits and Social Support”



ARCA REHABILITATION COUNSELOR EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Dr. Emily Lund,
University of Alabama

STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS



ARCA DOCTORAL STUDENT RESEARCH PROPOSAL COMPETITION

Denise Bozek, Auburn
University on
“The Impact of Accessibility
on Students with Disabilities
on College Campuses



ARCA DOCTORAL STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Constance “Connie”
Richard, University of
Wisconsin-Madison



ARCA MASTER’S STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Dayana Nicolas,
Florida International University

PRESIDENTS OF ARCA

1958-59	Salvatore DiMichael
1959-60	William Usdane
1960-61	Abraham Jacobs
1961-62	Lloyd Lofquist
1962-63	C. H. Patterson
1963-64	William Gellman
1964-65	Daniel Sinick
1965-66	John McGowan
1966-67	John Muthard
1967-68	Marceline Jaques
1968-69	Martin Acker
1969-70	Leonard Miller
1970-71	Gregory Miller
1971-72	Richard Thoreson
1972-73	George Ayers
1973-74	Lawrence Feinberg
1974-75	George N. Wright
1975-76	Tom Porter
1976-77	Ray Ehrle
1977-78	Bob Johnson
1978-79	Frank Touchstone
1979-80	Donald Linkowski
1980-81	Kenneth Reagles
1981-82	Dan McAlees
1982-83	Stanford Rubin
1983-84	Kenneth Thomas
1984-85	Paul McCollum
1985-86	Edna Szymanski
1986-87	Randall Parker
1987-88	Brian McMahan
1988-89	John Thompson
1989-90	Ross Lynch
1990-91	Dennis R. Maki
1991-92	Martha Walker
1992-93	Jeanne Patterson
1993-94	John Dolan
1994-95	Linda Shaw
1995-96	Michael Leahy
1996-97	William Richardson
1997-98	Vilia Tarvydas
1998-99	Donna Falvo
1999-00	Chow Lam
2000-01	Deborah Ebener
2001-02	Ellen Fabian
2002-03	Susanne Brayere'
2003-04	Tim Jankowski
2004-05	Betty Hedgeman
2005-06	Jan LaForge
2006-07	Irmo Marini
2007-08	Patty Nunez
2008-09	Yolanda Edwards
2009-10	Carolyn Rollins
2010-11	Frank Lane
2011-12	Carrie Wilde
2012-13	Joe Keferl
2013-14	Paul Toriello

2014-15	David Staten
2015-16	Quiteya Walker
2016-17	Henry McCarthy
2017-18	Michelle Bradham-Cousar
2018-19	Noel Ysasi
2019-20	Michael Hartley
2020-21	Steve Zanskas
2021-22	Sonia Peterson
2022-23	Valerie Dixon
2023-24	Daniel Balva

James F. Garrett Award Winners Since 1989

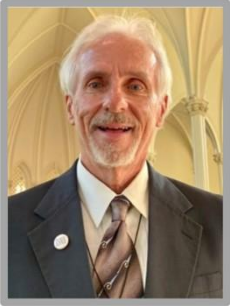
Brian Bolton	1989	Chow Lam	2005
Alfred J. Butler	1989	Susanne Bruyere	2006
Marcelline E. Jaques	1990	Reginald J. Alston	2007
George N. Wright	1990	Vilia M. Tarvydas	2008
Stanford E. Rubin	1994	Irmo Marini	2010
Kenneth R. Thomas	1994	James Herbert	2011
Brian McMahan	1995	David Strauser	2011
Randall Parker	1996	Ellen Fabian	2012
Norman L. Berven	1998	Dennis Gilbride	2013
Daniel Cook	1999	Keith Wilson	2014
Fong Chan	2000	Phillip Rumrill	2016
Edna Mora Szymanski	2000	Margaret (Peg) Nosek	2017
David Hershenson	2001	Malachy Bishop	2019
Hanoch Livneh	2001	Jerome Fischer	2021
Douglas C. Strohmer	2003	Yolanda Edwards	2022
Michael Leahy	2004	Henry McCarthy	2023
Richard Roessler	2004		

“Accessibility allows us to tap into everyone’s potential.”

Debra Ruh

“Alone we can do so little; together, we can do so much.”

Helen Keller



**REFLECTIONS ON RECEIVING THE GARRETT AWARD
FOR A
DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF RESEARCH IN
REHABILITATION**

by Henry Germain-McCarthy

Greetings to my community of rehabilitation counseling colleagues and disability justice advocates! I am very grateful to receive this honor from the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association during the annual American Counseling Association Conference in April, 2024. I would like to take this opportunity to explain why I believe receiving this award honors not only the work of each awardee's career, but also the legacy of rehabilitation counseling scholarship of which we are beneficiaries and contributors.

*I see this legacy as having two paths, sometimes parallel and sometimes intersecting. The **personal relationship aspect** of that legacy consists of the different people who fulfill the roles necessary for research to occur: those who stimulate and guide, those who carry out, and those who contribute their lived experiences and perspectives to a study. For me, those groups have constituted literally hundreds of people over a few decades: (1) Some nurtured my curiosity about human behavior when faced with disability, discrimination, and other societal barriers to having a good quality of life. (2) Colleagues assisted me in designing, conducting, and disseminating the findings of the study. (3) Research participants shared with me their minds, hearts, and experiences related to the particular topic of the study. I can still vividly recall the people and events that sparked my interest in the disability experience, which led to my making a vocational decision that was fulfilled by my fortunate 45-year adventure in our profession.*

It was the summer of 1970, right before my final year as an undergraduate student. Because it is a hard job with relatively high turnover, the only employment I could find was as a nurse's aide at a residential rehabilitation facility. The workload was heavy and hectic. However, I became so impressed with a few residents there whose ways of coping with their many physical and societal challenges allowed them to create a rich life, even within the institution. My excitement of wanting to understand and facilitate that process inspired me to start graduate school and make this work my profession.

Most influential in that early journey of professional education was the learning I acquired through two quite different sources. First was the long-term mentoring that I received from the renowned Beatrice Wright, who was my major professor at the University of Kansas and remained a wise colleague and fun friend for the remainder of her life. The second was a resilient group of stroke survivors in Queens, New York who had organized a grass-roots self-help group called OPUS: Organization of People Undaunted by Stroke. They created a peer-run day program for stroke survivors to discuss and practice the tasks of their physical and emotional recovery.

After I visited their program, they enthusiastically invited me to join their efforts. I decided to partner with them to conduct my research for the postdoctoral fellowship that I had just started at NYU Medical Center. I offered to volunteer as a facilitator of therapeutic and support groups each week; they could choose to participate in my interview study of the processes of hope and motivation in long-term adaptation to brain damage. What I observed and learned from this "never give-up" group further expanded my appreciation of the possibilities and strategies of living a good life while managing the demands of a significant disability.

Coincidentally, it was at NYU Medical Center that I first met **Jim Garrett**, to whom this award is dedicated and who was a consultant to their rehabilitation staff at the time.

Over the course of my career, the number of colleagues, students, and activists in the disability community who meaningfully contributed to my continuing education and professional development are far too many to mention. Still, I must honor five women (may they rest in peace) who significantly shaped my philosophy of rehabilitation and promotion of human rights. They are: my mom, Anna McCarthy; and Adrienne Asch, Susan Daniels, Peg Nosek, and Carolyn Vash, whom I especially prized as thought-leaders and role models. I learned many lessons from my discussions with them. Even more so, I was touched by the grace, wisdom, and self-less advocacy for justice with which they lived their lives. I am also grateful to so many colleagues, staff, and students who showed appreciation for my good qualities and tolerance of my quirky ones during my 31 years on the faculty at LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. Being supported by others on your path to becoming your best self is a priceless gift that I have been given a thousandfold.

The **Garrett Award** is not simply a personal honor to a small number of rehabilitation counseling researchers. It can also be considered an informal archive of the topics and types of research that have been especially acknowledged as important in the evolution of our profession. This fact brings me to describe the academic and applied aspect of the legacy that I both learned from and aimed to contribute to during most of my career.

Specifically, the following have been prominent goals of my research activities:

- (1) to explore and elevate the voice and experience of our rehabilitation consumers and self-advocate partners within the disability community;
- (2) to advance the importance and impact of advocacy work by rehabilitation professionals, done in collaboration with these insiders to the disability experience, in order to promote their agendas to achieve equity and inclusion in our society; and
- (3) to demonstrate the value and variety of qualitative research methodologies that contribute to our discipline's participant-centered scholarship and its application to our goal of an empowered and enriched life for all people.

I close by reiterating my sincere thanks for the personal relationships and academic and applied opportunities that sparked and sustained my career. I hope the scholarship and advocacy that these personal relationships and professional resources enabled me to pursue will expand and improve future theory, research and practice.

Finally, I want to thank my wonderful wife, Yvelyne, and our two amazing sons, Julian and Germain, who by enriching my personal and family life, gave me the energy and support to do my professional work. I wish all of you the best in doing and enjoying your own good work in rehabilitation counseling and disability rights advocacy.

Henry Germain-McCarthy

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

Save the dates



ARCA's "A Look Beyond What You See: Unmasking the Impostor"
May 5, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. EDT



Presented by
 Terrilyn Battle, Ph.D., LCMHC-A, LCAS-A, LAC, NCC, CRC, CVE

“I’m not as capable as people think I am. All the successes I have are simply a chance of luck.” If these words have been statements you’ve heard from many of your clients, they may be experiencing Impostor Phenomenon (aka impostor syndrome) and could benefit from the exploration of this within the counseling space. This session will explore how Impostor Phenomenon presents itself within high achievers and will equip you with tools to help your client from a rehab counseling perspective in addressing impostor feelings.

[Registration Link: Click Here](#)



ARCA Virtual Learning Institute: May 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024

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. During this event, attendees will have the opportunity to view and learn from 9 pre-recorded sessions at their leisure throughout the month. Attendees can earn up to 9 CRC and CVE CEs for sessions focused on Specialty Topics within Rehabilitation Counseling, Disability Awareness and Education, Legislation and Advocacy, Counselor Education and/or Supervision, and Advancing the Profession of Rehabilitation Counseling. Registration for ARCA’s Virtual Learning Institute is now open. More information can be found here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/epkb4qs>

ARCA June 2024 Month-Long Webinar Series

Throughout month of June, we will be hosting a month-long live webinar series to promote disability awareness and the importance of rehabilitation counseling to broader counseling community. We will be hosting two webinars each Friday of the month. We hope you will consider joining us for this exciting program! More details to follow!

