CORE-CACREP AFFILIATION: BEGINNING OF THE END OR THE END OF THE BEGINNING?

With the announcement of the CORE-CACREP Affiliation, I have since been trying to describe my state of mind. I have used several of the classics, such as “I don’t think we’re in Kansas anymore,” “We have entered the twilight zone,” and the like. I have used sports analogies, such as “game changer,” or “whole new ballgame.” Recently, I have settled on “tilt.” The colloquial use of tilt emerged with the zeitgeist of poker (e.g., a player loses a big hand that puts him/her on tilt or mentally overloaded/off-balance). The CORE-CACREP Affiliation (“Affiliation”) has me on tilt. I do not feel that we lost a big hand but I do feel off-balance. The number of implications, many of them unknown, of this Affiliation is too many to account for in this letter. Thus, in finding my mental balance, as ARCA President, the question I ask is the following: For the field of Rehabilitation Counseling (RC), does the Affiliation represent the beginning of the end or the end of the beginning?

CORE President, Patty Nunez, and CACREP Chair, Sylvia Fernandez, have graciously provided an Affiliation update which is contained in this newsletter. In their update, I found the following sentence most compelling: “The primary goal of CORE leadership was to protect graduates from CORE accredited graduate programs that were cross-trained to also provide mental health counseling services.” I am particularly intrigued by their use of the verb “to protect.” I fully appreciate and respect that CORE made a difficult decision to protect…safeguard, keep, save from harm…these particular RC programs. Protection from threats to these programs like health care reform, changing licensure laws, and the like are real. Indeed, CORE has now affiliated with its heretofore biggest threat: CACREP. While the Affiliation does provide protection for RC, there is risk in that the protection is only temporary depending on how the field of RC responds.

BEGINNING OF THE END?

According to the Affiliation, programs that achieve accreditation for Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling will automatically be eligible for a dual accreditation in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. There is nothing in the Affiliation to keep RC programs, over time, from just dropping the Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling accreditation and moving forward solely with the Clinical Mental Health Counseling accreditation. Essentially and pessimistically, over time, RC programs could just fade away under the dominance, be it real or perceived, of Clinical Mental Health Counseling. This is the risk CORE has taken: the protection provided by the Affiliation is only as long lasting as RC.

Continued on the next page
END OF THE BEGINNING?

I am cautiously optimistic that the Affiliation will come to represent the initial step RC has taken away from its history of fragmentation and identity confusion. I am hopeful RC programs will use the protection of the Affiliation to conduct a massive outreach campaign to educate the general public about RC and its value to society; simply, without demand for RC, supply will vanish. I am confident the peace between CORE and CACREP can serve as a model for the various RC professional organizations to unite into an organization that recognizes RC is no longer a battle between rehabilitation versus counseling; rather we can do both.

So, will RC fade away or will we thrive? Is this the beginning of the end or the end of the beginning? We have some protection, now the choice of what to do with it is ours.

Best,

Paul Toriello, Rb.D., CRC, CCS, LCAS
ARCA President 2013-2014
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Disclaimer: Please note the views expressed in the President's editorial do not necessarily reflect the views of the entire ARCA Board.

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Next Issue will be in January 2014

COUNCIL ON PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION/STANDARDS
Chair, Open

COUNCIL ON PUBLIC POLICY AND LEGISLATION
Chair, Open

ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2013-2014 ARCA Membership Brochure and Application has been updated and is now available on the ARCA website!

The application is interactive and allows for electronic or manual renewals and new applications.

We encourage you to print copies to share with students and colleagues and to also refer them to the ARCA website at www.arcaweb.org.
ARCA'S MISSION

The American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA) is an organization of rehabilitation counseling practitioners, educators, and students who are concerned with continually improving the profession of rehabilitation counseling in its service to persons with disabilities. In pursuit of this mission, ARCA:

1. Provides leadership in advancing the profession and science of rehabilitation counseling.

2. Promotes standards that represent the highest quality of professional rehabilitation counseling practice in a rapidly changing environment.

3. Provides research findings with direct application to the current and future practice of rehabilitation counseling.

4. Fosters dialogues and coordinates activities among rehabilitation counselors, educators, administrators, and other rehabilitation professionals within and among various specialty areas.

5. Engages in active collaborations and partnerships with other national professional organizations and with consumer groups.

ARCA supports eliminating environmental and attitudinal barriers so that more opportunities in education, employment, and leisure are available to people with disabilities. ARCA's activities are designed to: increase public awareness of the profession of rehabilitation counseling; engage the association's members in outreach and education; promote leadership skills through participation in ARCA's organizational activities; and to advocate for appropriate licensure requirements. ARCA's goals are addressed through public education, collaboration, and legislative activities.

ACA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Looking ahead, ACA has set conference locations and dates for the next three years. Please mark your calendars as we hope to see you:

For more information, visit: www.counseling.org/conference

March 26—30, 2014
Honolulu, Hawaii

March 11—15, 2015
Orlando, Florida

March 30—April 3, 2016
Montreal, Canada

To view past conferences, e.g., 2013 Professional Development Institute in Cincinnati Ohio or the 2012 ACA Leadership Institute, visit the ARCA website and click on the MEDIA tab.
On July 31, CORE and CACREP jointly announced the two organizations had entered into an historic agreement whereby CORE will become a corporate affiliate of CACREP. The agreement was the culmination of several months of discussions between the leadership of the two organizations, and thoughtful consideration on the part of both the CORE and the CACREP Boards of Directors.

On July 12, both CORE and CACREP Boards voted in favor of a proposal that outlined the parameters of the corporate affiliation agreement. The primary goal was to protect graduates from CORE accredited graduate programs that were cross-trained to also provide mental health counseling services. The foundation of the affiliation agreement was the development of a unified accreditation process for the counseling profession. Here are some highlights of the agreement that may be of interest to ARCA members.

CORE will be implementing CACREP’s newly developed and adopted standards for Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling. As part of this agreement, CORE and CACREP will also continue to accredit other programs within their respective scopes of practice. What this means is that going forward, CORE will accredit Undergraduate Rehabilitation programs, Graduate Rehabilitation Counseling programs, and Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling programs.

- CORE and CACREP released on October 9, 2013, a joint process that will allow CORE accredited Rehabilitation Counseling programs that are 60 credit hours and meet other eligibility criteria to become dually accredited as both a Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling program and a Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. Why is this important? One challenge for the profession has been the recent decisions regarding requirements for independent practice within TRICARE and employment as a mental health counseling professional within a number of Federal agencies such as the Veterans Administration and the US Marines. CORE and CACREP believe it is in the best interest of its constituents, as well as the publics’ served by graduates of CORE accredited programs, if programs (who are already training students as rehabilitation and mental health counselors or have recently transitioned their programs to a mental health focus) can convert their current accreditation status to that of a dually accredited program. As long as programs meet both the CIRC and CMHC standards they can be accredited by both standards.

- Each board will have one seat designated for an individual with the expertise in the content area the other accredits. For example, CORE will have a board member with mental health counseling experience and the CACREP board member will have rehabilitation counseling experience. Note this is not a “representative”, for example, of CACREP on the CORE board, or visa versa. Nor will board members be sitting on each others boards. The CORE and CACREP boards will have ultimate decision on selecting who sits on their board, as they do now. But this will bring welcome expertise of Rehabilitation Counseling onto the CACREP Board, and welcome expertise of Mental Health Counseling onto the CORE board.

- Until January 1, 2018, graduates of doctoral level RCE programs will be eligible to teach in CACREP-accredited programs for life. This element of the agreement is very favorable to current educators and those who will be graduating prior to January 1, 2018. This will open up employment options in any CORE or CACREP accredited program – for life!

- One final benefit to the profession: both organizations have also agreed to work towards recognition of programs accredited under the Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling Standards with regard to state licensure and federal hiring eligibility.

Continued on the next page
The leadership of CORE and CACREP signed a Memorandum of Agreement on October 6. This MOA highlights the parameters of the agreement. The Conversion policy, as well as the official Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling standards, was made public via a press release on Wednesday, October 9, 2013.

A final note: The CACREP Clinical Rehabilitation counseling standards have been included in CACREP’s Draft 2 of the Standards Revision, and can be accessed and commented upon by going to the CACREP website, or at this link: http://www.cacrep.org/template/page.cfm?id=141. All Rehabilitation Counseling professionals are encouraged to review the standards and provide direct feedback to CACREP. It is through this feedback process the program standards will be enhanced.

CORE has and will continue to conduct the business of accreditation, even though much of the focus of the organization of late has been the CORE-CACREP corporate affiliation. CORE will begin its regular standards revision process on the Rehabilitation Counseling standards this fall. There are several ad hoc committees (Commission structure, Marketing, and Global Committees) working to review CORE’s structure, develop a strategic plan for advancement of current and future accredited programs, and global outreach with the goal of developing a Global Directory as a first step in helping programs around the world develop standards for rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities.

WEBSITES

Council on Rehabilitation Education
www.core-rehab.org

Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs
www.cacrep.org

ARCA WEBSITE
http://www.arcaweb.org

Visit the website regularly for:
- Updates and News
- Calls
- Resources and Links
- Forms
- Conference Information
- Newsletter Archives
- and more!

ARCA LISTSERV
arca@listserv.arcaweb.org

Join the ARCA Listserv by sending an email to the subscription address above, leave the subject line blank but enter the following in the message area of the email: SUBSCRIBE ARCA.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin (RCB), a quarterly peer-reviewed scholarly publication.
- Online quarterly newsletter highlighting legislative and professional activities that affect rehabilitation counselors and the profession (www.arcaweb.org).
- Opportunities for professional growth and leadership through participation in ARCA sponsored activities and workshops.
- Website reports on issues and trends affecting rehabilitation counselors (www.arcaweb.org).
- CEUs for peer reviewing submissions to RCB or reading articles in RCB.
- Building relationships with ARCA colleagues and expanding opportunities for employment and continued professional growth.
- Listserv alerting rehabilitation counselors to legislative actions and ARCA activities.
- Professional recognition through Association Awards.
- Opportunities to network on an annual basis at conference(s) and annual membership meeting.

Happy Holidays

From the ARCA Board
For the past few months, I have been actively networking and collaborating with other professional associations that share kindred missions with ARCA. In June, I attended the Mississippi disAbility Mega Conference in Jackson. It was an impressively diverse gathering of all stakeholders in the rehabilitation enterprise: service providers, educators, self-advocates, professional and family advocates, program administrators, and policy makers. It was heartening to see the level of harmony and energy these various groups created in the well-attended sessions and social activities. The keynote speaker was Christine Ha, the winner of the national competition, Master Chef USA (Season 3). She was endearing and articulate in sharing her story of developing a career out of her avocational passion, while adjusting to adventitious blindness over the past decade. In her closing plenary address, Christy Dunaway, the Executive Director of an independent living center in Mississippi, was equally powerful in sharing with the audience similarly inspiring messages of perseverance and accommodation.

I served on the planning committee for the annual conference of the National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC), a division of the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA). A request was made to create NAMRC’s first-ever service activity to be conducted in conjunction with the conference, which was held in July. I embraced the opportunity, because the host city was my hometown of New Orleans, a mecca of multiculturalism that not only offers endless delights to visitors but also has many residents with substantial needs for support. I wanted the conference attendees who would volunteer to participate in the service activity to get some meaningful exposure to people and neighborhoods with such needs; and I wanted the locals involved to be able to connect on a personal level with a diverse group of successful rehabilitation professionals. I contacted a group I had heard about, but with which I had no prior experience. Shalom Zone is a community center in an area plagued by a very high rate of violent crime that offers throughout the year an educational and cultural development program for youth. A group of teens from this program was invited to attend the Opening Ceremony of the conference where they were introduced and welcomed. The teens were especially stimulated by a series of skits about the disability experience, performed by a theatrical group consisting of adult consumers with developmental disabilities and a few staff from The Arc in town. Afterwards, each teen was paired with a NAMRC volunteer host, and we went to lunch at Café Reconcile. This is a

Photo of the LSU Health Sciences Center group (alumna, professor, and students), taken at the 2013 NAMRC Conference in the exhibit area.

Pictured from left to right: Brandi Darensbourg, Henry McCarthy, Susan Analla, Veronica Buccola, Gabriela Bourque, and Kelly Tyler
very popular restaurant that happens to be in the same neighborhood as *Shalom Zone*; it also is a culinary careers training program for homeless, adjudicated, and at-risk youth. An unexpected “lagniappe” to our luncheon was having the opening ceremony speaker, Janet LaBreck, head of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, join us. A few days later, her nomination to serve as the new Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration was confirmed by the U.S. Senate. She was a delightful addition to our lunch group that was filled with mutual learning and enjoyment. For some of the teens, it was their first encounter with a seeing-eye dog, and they were excited and full of questions about that; for all of the youth, it was their first time hearing about the rehabilitation counseling profession and its career options. The two seasoned directors of *Shalom Zone* were very excited to meet a high-level executive appointed by President Obama. It was a fun and enriching experience for all. As I departed, the Café Reconcile manager expressed her gratitude for the customer referrals and publicity. It was a win-win activity all around.

Dr. Cirecie West-Olatunji, current President of the American Counseling Association (ACA), was a keynote speaker at the annual conference of the Louisiana Counseling Association (LCA), held in New Orleans on September 14 through 17, 2013. In her Opening Session address, she shared several important experiences in her career development that had local connections. She mentioned lobbying State Legislators as a doctoral student at the University of New Orleans and making numerous trips, while on the faculty of the University of Florida, back to New Orleans to organize and provide long-term, disaster-related counseling services to persons and groups affected by Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent flooding from the broken levees. She also acknowledged with appreciation the partnership she and I enjoyed — and the mutual benefits for our students — during the years when she was teaching at Xavier University in New Orleans, which is the only college in the country that is historically Black and Catholic. I would bring my LSU Health Sciences Center students to Xavier for both a lecture on multicultural counseling by Cirecie and an immersion experience within a dynamic, historically Black college campus. Through subsequent small-group discussions among our students and a lecture by me, the Xavier students in school and community counseling learned about the legacy and current practice of rehabilitation counseling. Cirecie and I have maintained our close relationship and our common interest in spreading the benefits of counseling’s model and strategies of promoting wellness, especially in international settings experiencing the stresses of societal oppression and natural disasters. Haiti is one such location where Cirecie and I made separate trips to work with people still living in tent cities more than 18 months after the earthquake of 2010. As part of the LCA conference, I organized a benefit for Haiti. Cirecie donated her services and gave an incisive seminar on culturally-affirmative disaster counseling, and I created a cultural experience for the attendees with a display of vibrant Haitian artwork and music. All funds collected were given to Association Haitienne de Developpement Humain (haitiahdh.org) for their health and educational projects in Haiti. I am very grateful to Diane Austin, Executive Director of LCA, for all her assistance and support in making the benefit happen.

*Continued on the next page*
At each of these conferences, besides presenting a concurrent session and distributing ARCA membership materials and some copies of our scholarly journal, Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin, I had numerous productive conversations with leaders of these sister organizations to ARCA. At the NAMRC conference, I was pleased that four students from our rehabilitation counseling Master’s program at LSU Health Sciences Center volunteered to be session monitors; and I was further delighted to introduce them to Dr. Brandi Darensbourg of the University of North Texas, Co-Chair of the conference planning committee with Dr. Brenda Cartwright. Brandi is a relatively recent alumna of our program and an encouraging role model of commitment to and leadership in the profession. See the photo of the six of us taken in the NAMRC conference exhibit area and the photo of Cirecie and me at the Haitian benefit at LCA.

I look forward to networking and collaborating with you and your colleagues, so keep in touch.

Be well,

Henry McCarthy
Chair, Council on Development and Collaboration
hmccar@LSUHSC.edu

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REPORT FROM ARCA STUDENT TASK FORCE REPRESENTATIVE

KATIE WACHTEL

The 2013-2014 school year has begun, and for those of us who are students that means the beginning of papers, midterms, finals, internships, theses, dissertations, supervision, COMPS not to mention the copious amount of reading. With so many commitments, why should we add one more to our plates? The answer is simple. When graduation finally arrives, our commitments will shift: some will decrease, some will disappear altogether, and others may be added, but one thing we will continue to foster is our professional identity. Becoming involved in ARCA as a student is a step toward professional development that can continue throughout our careers. Knowledge of professional issues, advocacy for who we are and what we do, understanding issues faced by our clients and keeping up-to-date on effective modes of treating these issues, these are all things that will follow us on our journeys as rehabilitation counselors. Being a student is one step in this journey, and for this reason, ARCA is invested in recruiting, promoting, recognizing, and fostering the growth of students.

In the coming months, I plan to work toward each of these goals with the help of the regional representatives. I hope to use social media to increase student involvement and give students a medium to share their ideas about how ARCA can help to facilitate their growth as rehabilitation counselors. Students play a valuable role as future professionals, and as such, should feel involved in the profession. It is my goal to facilitate a feeling of involvement. Please, do not hesitate to contact me at kawachte@uncg.edu, as I welcome any comments, questions, ideas or feedback.

Katie A. Wachtel, MRC, CRC, LPC
kawachte@uncg.edu

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RECEIVE THE “REHABILITATION COUNSELING BULLETIN” ONLINE

As a member of ARCA, you receive free online access to Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin (RCB) as a member benefit which features articles important to rehabilitation counseling practitioners in counseling, education, or research settings. Each issue includes original empirical research, theoretical essays, comprehensive literature reviews, intensive case studies, research critiques, and media reviews.

Go to the SAGE website society member subscriptions activation page (https://online.sagepub.com/cgi/activate/basic) and enter your ARCA Member Number in the appropriate field, select American Rehabilitation Counseling Association from the drop-down menu, and click Submit. Follow the instructions to complete your user set-up. Once complete, you can access RCB online at the RCB website (http://rcb.sagepub.com/). Please note, your online access begins with your first print issue. New members should wait to receive their first print issue before attempting to register for online access.
NOMINATE TODAY!

Now seeking nominations for the 2014 American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA) SPECIAL AWARDS and STUDENT AWARDS. The Special Awards include The Rehabilitation Counselor of the Year Award and The Vision Award.

The Rehabilitation Counselor of the Year Award recognizes a rehabilitation counselor who has gone above and beyond serving clients; the Vision Award is presented to a student who through an essay identifies unique innovations that highlight the collaborative relationship between the specialty of rehabilitation counseling and the counseling profession at large.

The Student Awards recognize outstanding masters and doctoral level rehabilitation counseling students. For more information about the awards, including the criteria for nomination, see below.

Awards will be presented at the 2014 American Counseling Association Conference and Exposition in Honolulu, Hawaii on March 26 to 30, 2014, during the ARCA Reception. Award recipients are encouraged to attend the conference.

Nominations must be emailed to Dr. Jamie Schutte at jcs85@pitt.edu

Deadline for nominations is Friday, January 17, 2014

2014 ARCA RESEARCH AWARDS

Nominations are now being sought for the 2014 American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA) Research Awards, which recognizes and honors high quality, research in the field of rehabilitation counseling. Research published in peer-reviewed outlets in the 2013 calendar year, or publications not yet available prior to last year’s call for nominations will be considered.

Nominations must be emailed to kbwilson@siu.edu and must include a full APA reference of the publication, and an electronic copy, link, or pdf file of the complete research article/work. DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014.

2014 JAMES F. GARRETT DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN REHABILITATION RESEARCH AWARD

Nominations are being sought for the 2014 James F. Garrett Award for a Distinguished Career in Rehabilitation Research, which recognizes excellence in research contributions over one’s career. The nominee may or may not be retired in order to qualify. Nominee’s published research should span at least 15 years and focus on rehabilitation counseling. Nominations should include supportive evidence for the nominee, e.g., letters, samples, vitae.

Please send nominations by FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014. Electronic/email nominations are preferred to: kbwilson@siu.edu, however hard copy nominations will be accepted if postmarked prior to January 17, 2014 to:

Keith B. Wilson, Ph.D., CRC, Dean and Professor, College of Education and Human Services, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Mail Code 4624, 625 Wham Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901 (Phone) 618-453-7313 or (fax) 618-453-1646
Please consider getting involved in the ARCA Awards process for the upcoming year. Please nominate research you feel is deserving of recognition. If you would like to get involved in the review process, please contact me directly.

Keith B. Wilson, Ph.D., CRC,
Chair, Council on Research & Knowledge
kbwilson@siu.edu or (618) 453-7313

V. Evaluated Responses and Notification of Award Winners:
A. Once the reviewer's evaluation forms have been received by staff person, she will compute the average score for each article and determine the three highest scoring articles (i.e., first, second, and third place). This is double-checked without the names on the evaluation forms by ARCA Awards Chairperson.
B. The lead author of a winning article is responsible for informing the other authors of their award.
C. All award winners (i.e., first authors) will be sent both an email and a hard copy on ARCA letterhead in February or early March.
D. Detailed information about the ARCA Luncheon (e.g., date, time, etc.) will be included in the letter to the first author.

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