A Message from Steve Zanskas, PhD., CRC, LPC
President, American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (2020-2021)

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for electing me as the 2020-2021 ARCA President. I genuinely appreciate the privilege to serve you and our profession. We have entered a challenging era. Few if any of us have experienced a pandemic in our lifetime. However we are now experiencing three pandemics; the pandemics of COVID-19, economic, and racism. Each has had a disparate impact on people with disabilities. During this time, ARCA Members have the responsibility of advocating for the profession as well as the people we serve.

With privilege comes responsibility and I see many responsibilities before us. Along with the people we serve, we have the responsibility of speaking for the inclusion of disability, as a universal aspect of human existence, in the standards of accrediting bodies, our organization, and institutions. Recognizing that persons with disabilities are persons first, we have the responsibility to advocate for the full inclusion of rehabilitation counseling in licensing laws. A person with a disability deserves no less than a counselor who has demonstrated the minimum qualifications to practice in their respective state. We have the responsibility of becoming better representatives for both our profession and the persons with a disability. Our privilege and our responsibility require that we place our emphasis on our similarities with others to build connections and partnerships to achieve common goals. ARCA is in the best position to advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion for persons with a disability and our profession. We cannot do this alone.

Now more than ever ARCA as a membership organization needs your voice and participation. Physical distancing does not preclude social connection. During the coming year your Board will work to build opportunities for connections through teaching, research, and service. Working together we can continue to nourish our community during a challenging year.

Historically, there have been many outstanding ARCA leaders and members. I am humbled to have been granted this opportunity to serve. I see it as both a privilege and a great responsibility. Please join with me to work to make this exceptional era become one of positive visibility for rehabilitation counseling and persons with a disability. Rehabilitation counseling and persons with disability deserve no less.

Respectfully,

Steve Zanskas, Ph.D., CRC, LPC
ARCA President (2020-2021)
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