

MEET THE CANDIDATES - ACA PRESIDENT ELECT 2021-2022

The ACA Governing Council vetted and approved three candidates to run for 2021–2022 ACA President-Elect. The election will take place from the beginning of December 2020 through the end of January 2021. Voting will be open to ACA members who are in good standing at the time of the election. Extensive candidate bios will be published in *Counseling Today* over the coming months. In the meantime, here is a brief introduction to the dedicated ACA members seeking this important office.



Judy Daniels

It would be my honor to serve as your next President, and bring my proven track record of advocacy, a passion for strategic planning, and steadfast leadership to ACA. For 30 years I have had the privilege of working as a professional counselor, educator, and certified rehabilitation counselor. Throughout my career, and as a Lifetime Member and Fellow of the ACA, I have passionately advocated for the profession, clients, and the human rights of vulnerable diverse client populations.

I am particularly interested in advocating for the needs of students and new professionals and I serve on an ACA task force with this focus. I look forward to working on your behalf for a seamless pathway to counselor portability, gratifying compensation, insurance reimbursement, and diverse career opportunities. I am also passionate

about the intersection between the climate crisis and mental health. The World Health Organization has identified the climate crisis as one of the greatest human rights issues impacting our world. I chair the ACA task force on Mental Health and Climate Change.

My past work experiences include adolescent mental health, substance-abuse prevention, school guidance, sports counseling, career counseling, and adults with psychiatric disabilities. I have served eight-years on the ACA Governing Council and three-years on the Executive Committee. I was a founding member and Past-President of Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ), a former state-ACES President, and a former state-AMCD President. I am committed to ACA Branches, Divisions, and Regions, and as ACA President, I would provide steadfast advocacy and dedicated leadership.

My Presidential goals would be to listen to your hopes and concerns, and to address them. It would my honor to give back to the profession by being your next president. Together, we can make the kind of differences that our clients and communities deserve.



Kimberly Frazier

I have worked in the counseling profession since 2000 as a clinician, researcher, and educator. I hold licensure as a licensed professional counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, and I am a nationally certified counselor. I have worked in ACA as a governing council representative from 2012-2015 and while on governing council I served on the president's executive board helping to shape policy for members of ACA. I also served as president of the Association of Multicultural Counseling and

Development (AMCD) during 2016-2017. Serving as a governing council representative I sat on the executive committee and I have also served multiple times as a program reviewer for ACA conference proposals. My other roles within AMCD include serving as graduate student representative, serving on the executive council, serving as the chair of the mentoring program, and serving on the finance

committee. I currently serve as parliamentarian, chair of the ethics committee and an ad-hoc reviewer for the Journal of the Association of Multicultural Counseling and Development within the organization.

I have been passionate about counseling since beginning my journey at Xavier University of Louisiana and throughout my Ph.D. program at the University of New Orleans. I am honored to work with counseling professionals who are passionate about counseling profession as well as specific sub-areas where I share their interest. I am seeking the office of president-elect of the American Counseling Association because I want to work to increase diversity in areas of leadership within ACA, increase clinician involvement and representation within ACA and increase student involvement and representation within the organization. These three components, diversity in leadership, clinician involvement and representation, and student involvement and representation are the life-blood of the organization that will keep ACA fresh with ideas and mirror the principles the organization was founded.



Elizabeth O'Brien

My experiences have taught me to be a strategic thinker to implement plans that are beneficial to the short and long-term growth of the people and organizations that I serve. The ACA strategic framework articulates our most pressing ongoing needs: licensure portability, adequate funding, resource development and building a diverse pipeline of counselors and leaders.

In 2016 HB1840 (conscious clause legislation) was passed in my home state of Tennessee, coinciding with my term as the Association for Spirituality, Ethics and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC) President. Experiencing the process first hand, both as a leader and as a practicing Tennessee counselor, was career altering. It taught me a great deal about honoring individual differences, listening to clients' and professional peers' needs, and validating

disparate viewpoints while staying true to the ACA code of ethics. In fractured times, we need to mend the gaps between us, and stay true to the mission we developed as ACA members.

In many ways, my career path has led me to this point. I have experience working in K-12 and alternative schools, community mental health agencies and psychiatric hospitals. I am a full professor of counselor education and take pride in developing the next generation of counselors and leaders in our field. I have continued my clinical practice serving as a college counseling center director and maintained a private practice caseload. I believe the connection between practice and academia is vital in informing me on what counselors need from our organization.

Our organization is at a critical juncture in its evolution; we must remain responsive to the needs of our members in meaningful and relevant ways. This type of work can be uncomfortable and it is important that we are brave enough to move forward, which I will do as your 71st ACA President.