

2024–25 ACA Elections

◦ Division and Region Candidates Statements

ACA GOVERNING COUNCIL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Amanda A. Cole

As a graduate student in Counselor Education and Supervision, I am honored to be a candidate for Governing Council Student Representative. My passion for the field and commitment to advocating for graduate students make me a strong applicant.

Throughout my academic journey, I've developed a true understanding of the unique opportunities and challenges facing counseling students. I'm committed to representing the varied needs and perspectives of my peers, ensuring that their voices are heard. I'm eager to collaborate with other graduate students from across the country to advance the American Counseling Association strategic initiatives of community engagement, clear delineation of counselor identity, and culturally inclusive scholarship to advance clinical practice.

My strengths naturally align with this position. I'm a current Graduate Student Senator for my university and have held numerous leadership positions at the state level. Having been an ACA member since 2010, I'm confident in my ability to contribute to the organization's goals and am prepared to expand my reach to the national level. I also have a deeply held commitment to social justice. My advocacy efforts have been dedicated to ensuring safeguards for LGBTGEQIAP+ youth. My experience with Psychodrama group work has equipped me with strong communication skills, creativity, consensus-building, and adaptability. I've been a counselor for over a decade and have worked in multiple practice settings with clients of diverse backgrounds. Because I embody the roles of counselor and student simultaneously, I believe I am uniquely qualified to serve on the Governing Council. I have an informed and current understanding of what the profession is like from multiple vantage points.

I'm truly grateful to be part of the counseling profession. Being a graduate student has enriched my life in many ways and I want to give back to the field that has given me so much.

Jackie Grapa

I am honored to be nominated for the Governing Council Student Representative position at the American Counseling Association (ACA) and to have been recommended by the Association for Child and Adolescent Counseling. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to ACA's leadership and help shape the future of the counseling profession through this role. I intend to represent the voices of students and advocating for policies that promote ethical practice and inclusivity within the counseling profession.

As an Associate Professional Clinical Counselor (APCC) and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT), I have had the honor of working with underserved populations in both English and Spanish. My roles at Family Connections and CHAC (Community Health Awareness Council) provided me with valuable experience of the unique cultural needs of diverse communities, particularly Latine families. I am passionate about supporting the well-being of children, adolescents, and their families, and I see this nomination as a way to further align my efforts with ACA and ACAC's missions.

I am currently pursuing a PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision, which reflects my commitment to the field and my passion for the professional development of future counselors. My academic interests and clinical experience reinforce my desire to contribute meaningfully to ACAC and ACA governance.

As Governing Council Student Representative, I would be committed to ensuring that student perspectives are integrated into ACA's initiatives. I look forward to contributing to policies that enhance access to quality mental health care and support the growth of future counselors.

Alexis J. Isaac

It is an honor to be nominated for the position of Governing Council Student Representative. I am a second-year doctoral student in Counselor Education and Supervision at Virginia Tech and a graduate of the University of San Diego's Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. I have been a member of ACA since the first year of my master's program. As a future educator, my counselor identity is at the heart of my work. I am a registered resident in counseling in Virginia, an associate professional clinical counselor in California, and a nationally certified counselor. As a passionate advocate for the counseling profession and an active student leader, I am drawn to the opportunity to amplify my peers' voices and contribute to the growth of our field.

Leadership and service are at the center of my counseling and academic journey, and I have engaged in service across regions (WACES, SACES), divisions (AADA, SAIGE, ASERVIC), and organizations (CSI, community coalitions). During my master's, I served as the Professional Development Chair for Chi Sigma Iota and Co-Chair of the LGBTQIA+ Graduate Student Association. These positions resulted in a Campus-Wide Impact Award and the Student of the Year Award. More recently, I have worked to support local mental health initiatives and my ACES region. I believe my culmination of experiences uniquely positions me to represent student interests and serve as a voting member of the Governing Council.

As the GCSR, I will prioritize centering graduate student perspectives across diverse student experiences, ACA divisions, and counseling specialties. I also look forward to co-creating how we can best support the future of the counseling field and capitalize on the workforce power and potential students hold to make a meaningful impact in the lives of our clients, students, and colleagues.

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, MIDWEST REGION

Rebecca Christiansen

I have been active in counseling leadership for the past 20 years at the local, state, and regional levels of ACA. Over the last decade, I have served as the Executive Director of the South Dakota Counseling Association, as well as serving a three-year term as Midwest Region Leadership. Over the course of my involvement, I noticed that most elected leaders of ACA are Counselor Educators and doctoral candidates. While our counselor educators are doing an amazing job of teaching the next generation of counselors, I strongly feel that diverse career path representation is needed to align with the membership of ACA.

My career has spanned the areas of residential treatment, school & college counseling, and now private practice in a primarily rural state. In my private practice, I supervise counseling interns, licensees, oversee office staff, and carry a full case load. This is the type of experience I want to bring to the Governing Council of ACA; the voice of the everyday counselor. I want to represent those in the trenches, seeing 28+ clients a week, supervising practicum & intern students as well as those seeking licensure. I want to represent the ones working to advertise their practice, keep up with billing, maintain family relationships, avoid burnout, and have some semblance of a social life. Sound familiar? This is not a position to take lightly. I know that there are issues critical to our profession that need to be addressed through advocacy and organizational support. We need to continue to streamline Medicare billing, obtain appropriate compensation for counselors, and provide more support to those new to the field, especially those in underserved rural areas. Counseling is my passion, and it would be my privilege to represent and serve each of you as the ACA Midwest Region Governing Council Rep.

Victoria Kress

Service to our profession and those we serve is my passion, and over the past 25 years I have volunteered in 100+ leadership roles which include serving as the president of Chi Sigma Iota International, NCACES, the Association for Humanistic Counseling, and the Ohio Counseling Association; as the ACA Midwest Region Chair; and most recently as the Midwest Region Representative on the ACA Governing Council. I served on the Ohio counselor licensure board, and I worked as the Director of Advocacy for NBCC. In terms of ACA service, I: chaired the ACA Graduate Student Committee and the Branch Development Committee; served on a variety of ACA Task Forces and the ACA Bylaws Committee; and I was the Executive Editor of the ACA Practice Briefs. My professional service spans many counseling associations, and these diverse experiences have helped me to understand the complexity of our profession, develop foundational leadership skills, and reinforced my commitment to being a servant leader who puts the greater good before myself. Over the past 3 years I served on the ACA Governing Council and I have been actively involved in the ACA governance restructuring that will be implemented over the next year. I am seeking reelection so that I can see these changes through and be a part of implementing the shared vision of a restructured governance process that grows ACA and improves the overall health of our profession. I value excellence, honoring others' strengths and contributions, and I will continue to hold to these standards as an ACA governing council representative. ACA is in the midst of a significant transition. As counselors we know that it is during such times that the most transformational changes occur and I will do my best to contribute to this evolution and represent the Midwest region's voice.

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, NORTH ATLANTIC REGION

Beth Fier

I am so honored to be nominated to serve as a member of ACA's Governing Council. Over the course of my career, I have gratefully accepted opportunities to work hard in service to the counseling profession, and I look forward to this new challenge. I have long believed that we cannot limit our work to the session room if we hope to effect lasting change for our clients - we must work hard and humbly to build up the communities beyond our workplace walls if we want to truly improve lives.

My experience is varied and began in a large nonprofit organization, followed by adjunct teaching, training clinical interns, and supervising LACs while maintaining a small private practice in my local community. In 2009, I was humbled to receive the New Jersey Counseling Association (NJCA) Tabler Award for Distinguished Service. However, some of my most treasured opportunities have involved training with NBCC-International as a trainer for their Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) program; aiding in NBCC-I's work to bring MHF to Rwanda; and alongside a dear colleague, providing MHF training in Japan following the 2011 tsunami/Fukushima disaster.

I am a longstanding member of ACA, have served on the NJCA executive board, and as past president of the NJ Multicultural Counseling Association (NJAMC), a division of NJCA. Presently, I chair the NJCA Public Policy & Legislative Issues Committee, having stepped into this role in 2022. Our committee's crowning achievement, with the support of many within and outside of NJCA, has been the passage of the Counseling Compact in NJ as the 32nd member state. My belief is that the values of advocacy and servant leadership cannot be understated. In our role as counselor, we are also called to be change-makers – As counselors, we improve lives through individual connection, advocacy and community building.

David Julius Ford, Jr.

Advocacy is our ethical duty as counselors and serving on Governing Council is my way of advocating for members of marginalized communities and for graduate students in our profession. I can advocate for more counselors of color and making ACA for inclusive of counselors of color. I can advocate for counselors who are queer or transgender and help make ACA for inclusive for them. I have served a three-year term and hope to serve another term. I have been appointed to be the co-chair of the newly formed DEI committee and look forward to continuing that work. I am active in three ACA divisions and if re-elected to Governing Council, I can work with my connections in those divisions to assist ACA in continuing to move forward. I am a counselor educator and a practitioner. I can ensure that the voices of counselors in those spaces have a voice on Governing Council. As such, I am running to be re-elected by the North Atlantic Region to serve on ACA Governing Council.

Association for Adult Development and Aging (AADA)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Mary Chase Mize

I am honored to be nominated for election as President-Elect for the Association of Adult Development and Aging (AADA). AADA, to me, is more than a professional organization: it is a community of scholars, clinicians, advocates, and friends. I would be honored to give back to a place that has given me so much. I believe I possess several qualifications for the office of president-elect with AADA. I have been a member of AADA since 2015, when I first joined the American Counseling Association, and have been actively involved with the Older Adults Task Force for most of my time as a member. I earned my PhD in Counselor Education and Practice, MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and MA in Gerontology from Georgia State University, and I am currently an assistant professor at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, GA. Alongside my work as a counselor educator, I also continue to hold a strong professional counselor identity. I currently manage a small private practice, where I specialize in working with older adults, adults across the lifespan experiencing major life transitions, and adults across the lifespan who are experiencing thoughts of suicide and suicide grief and bereavement. I want to serve as president-elect because I care deeply about ways in which AADA equips students, clinicians, educators, legislators, and anyone committed to adult development and aging with resources, meaningful learning opportunities, and network of diverse individuals with shared professional goals. In 2015, as a novice counselor-in-training who wanted to work with older adults, I found my professional home in AADA, and it continues to strengthen my own development. As president-elect, I will strive to support the flourishing of AADA. Thank you for your consideration.

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, AADA

John C. Nance

The Association for Adult Development and Aging (AADA) has a strong history and reputation for a sense of community and engagement. Over the years, AADA has been a home and base connecting me to the greater American Counseling Association (ACA) organization.

Throughout the past decade, I have served in many roles for AADA; Treasurer, emerging adult task force member and chair, processed through the presidential cycle (2020–2023), conference committee, and bylaws committee. Throughout my leadership roles in AADA, I have been part of several critical moments. We updated our branding and website; updated bylaws & policies and procedures; transitioned our AdultSpan journal to an open access platform; and endured the impact of the pandemic on our annual conference.

Beyond AADA, I have been president of two ACA branches (North Carolina and South Carolina), Chair of the ACA Human Rights Committee (2017–2018), Chair of the Southern Region (2022–2023). I have strong connections throughout ACA and the governing body of ACA. I believe our division is critical to the counseling profession into the future, I carry into the role a strong advocacy stance with a balance of focus on strengthening our division along with enhancing the greater ACA organization. It would be an honor to serve as the Association for Adult Development and Aging representation to the ACA governing council.

Adrienne Trogden

It is a great honor to have been nominated to serve as the Governing Council Representative for the Association for Adult Development and Aging (AADA). This nomination reflects my long-standing commitment to the field of adult development and aging, as well as my dedication to the continued growth of our profession. I am eager to serve in this capacity and believe that my qualifications uniquely position me to contribute to the ongoing work of the association. Over the years, I have dedicated my career to supporting individuals through various stages of adult life, with a focus on trauma, substance use, and holistic well-being. My experience as a licensed professional counselor, coupled with my work in organizational development and management, has allowed me to contribute to policies and initiatives that enhance support systems for adults facing life's complex challenges. AADA plays a critical role in shaping the future of adult development and counseling, and I am eager to continue to be part of this work at a leadership level. I am seeking this office to continue having the voice of AADA heard through ACA's governing council. As I am a past president of AADA and have a lengthy history of involvement with governance of a variety of associations and companies, I am uniquely suited for this role. Additionally, I currently serve in a government relations role with the Louisiana Counseling Association and I'm the current COO of a behavioral health agency in New Orleans. I believe that my experience and knowledge in governance situate me well for being AADA's voice in ACA's governing council in both fiduciary duties and meeting the strategic goals of the association. If elected, I look forward to continuing to serve AADA and ACA in this role!

Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling (AARC)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Shaywana Harris-Pierre

Candidate information not available.

Amanda Rumsey

As a dedicated member of AARC for the past decade, I am honored to be nominated for the position of president-elect. I was first introduced to AARC by my mentor and advisor, Dr. Catharina Chang, who shared her passion for leadership and connection to the goals and mission of AARC. My experiences as a member, emerging leader, and current treasurer have given me valuable insights into the association's operations, and I have been fortunate to work with and learn from many strong AARC members and leaders. I have enjoyed the opportunity to foster meaningful professional relationships that include a shared focus on advancing the critical work of AARC in counseling assessment and research.

As an Associate Professor of Counselor Education at Clemson University, I have experience in counseling research, assessment, and education. My scholarly work includes research on school counselors' experiences with trauma, professional quality of life, and evidence-based practices, and I have a strong track record of securing external funding, including over \$5 million in grants as a principal investigator.

As AARC president-elect, I would focus on:

1. Expanding opportunities for emerging scholars and practitioners to engage in assessment and research
2. Fostering interdisciplinary collaborations to broaden our reach and impact
3. Enhancing AARC's role in shaping evidence-based counseling practices and policies
4. Strengthening our organizational infrastructure to support long-term growth

My leadership and service experiences, including leadership within AARC and service on the ACA Research and Knowledge and Publications Committees have prepared me to guide AARC into its next chapter. I am committed to building on our strong foundation while innovating to meet the evolving needs of our field. I would be honored to serve AARC in this capacity and contribute to our shared vision of excellence in counseling assessment and research.

TREASURER

Ye (Agnes) Luo

I am honored to be nominated for the Treasurer position. My involvement with the association spans back to 2017 when I first attended its annual conference as a doctoral student. I was attracted by AARC's focus on research and assessment and was immediately inspired by other prominent counseling researchers. Since then, I have been a consistent presence at every AARC conference. My service to AARC is extensive, including being the 2019–2020 Emerging Leader and later serving as the mentor for two years, serving the Awards Committee for one year, acting as the interim Web Master for two years, and serving as the Co-Chair for the Social Media Committee. In my three-year term on the Social Media Committee, I worked closely with the Executive Board and other committees to strengthen our virtual presence and foster member engagement on social media sites.

My involvement with AARC is complemented by my leadership roles in other professional settings. For instance, I have served as the Interim Executive Editor for the *Journal of Professional Counseling: Practice, Theory, & Research* and as the Treasurer for the Tennessee Mental Health Counseling Association. These roles have given me a comprehensive understanding of budgeting, financial reporting, and maintaining accurate financial records, which are crucial for the Treasurer position.

If elected, I am deeply committed to upholding the integrity of AARC's financial management. This includes preparing and presenting budgets, maintaining accurate financial records, and collaborating with the ACA Accounting Office. I aim to ensure our resources are used effectively. I am dedicated to fostering transparent communication, promptly addressing budgetary concerns, and contributing a perspective that is grounded in diversity and advocacy. AARC is not just an association to me; it is my professional home, and I am eager to contribute to its continued growth and financial stability.

Lena Salpietro

I am honored to be considered for the position of AARC Treasurer. I joined AARC in 2017, during my first year of doctoral studies, and presented my first professional presentation at the 2018 AARC Conference. This early connection to AARC laid the foundation for my continued engagement and commitment to its mission. AARC is the organization that resonates with me most, as it provides essential resources and fosters a strong sense of community among its members. My previous experience on the AARC Awards Committee and current service on the Specialty Standards and Statements Committee have given me with a deep understanding of AARC's mission to promote excellence in counseling assessment, research, and evaluation.

I have strong organizational skills and meticulous attention to detail that make me well-equipped for the responsibilities of Treasurer. I am thorough and have experience with data management, a skill set that will help me maintain and offer recommendations for our current budget documentation and procedures. I work collaboratively with others and am a timely and effective communicator, making me well-suited to collaborate with the Executive Council and Executive Committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to give back to the organization that has been so impactful in shaping my professional identity and development. As Treasurer, I will ensure that our financial resources are managed effectively to support AARC's mission and vision. I would be honored to serve as Treasurer and contribute to the continued success and growth of our organization.

MEMBER AT LARGE – MEMBERSHIP

Laura A. Bailey Smith

As a dedicated AARC member for over a decade, I am excited to apply for the Member at Large, Membership position. I have gained invaluable knowledge, connections and experiences through my engagement with AARC, and I welcome the opportunity to continue serving this organization. I have several key experiences that I believe qualify me for this position including service to AARC through membership on the Research Committee and as the 2023 AARC Conference Coordinator in Nashville.

My experience as the Conference Coordinator honed my skills in effective communication, strategic planning, and member advocacy. In this role, I was able to successfully increase attendance and engagement with the conference and encouraged programs addressing member needs at a variety of levels. This highlights one of my other strengths, which is engagement with entry level researchers and those who wish to grow their research skills. I have also served as the president of TACES and am currently the strategic planning committee chair for TCA and the Director of Research at Lindsey Wilson College. All of these leadership and service roles have given me experience at working in collaborative relationships and encouraging student involvement in research.

If elected, I will leverage my passion for assessment and research in counseling, along with my leadership experience, to strengthen AARC's membership base and enhance the value of membership for novice and experienced researchers alike. My goal would be to do this through effective communication of AARC's Mission and Initiatives to membership, and work with the Membership Committee to create events and campaigns to increase overall membership. I am committed to fostering a vibrant, inclusive

community that advances the field of counseling through rigorous assessment and research.

I would be honored to serve AARC in this capacity and contribute to its continued growth and success.

Naomi J. Wheeler

I am honored to be considered for the AARC Member-at-Large for Membership position. I have been a member of AARC for almost 10 years. In that time, AARC has been a welcoming and supportive professional space, where I learned from and was inspired by others in our discipline and grew my knowledge and skills as a researcher. As a member, I have actively contributed to AARC through service on conference committees, reviewing proposals, and presenting at and attending conferences. Related, I have also served on the Research and Knowledge committees for ACA and ACES, which add to my perspective for strengths and opportunities for our division and profession. Research is central to my identity as a counselor and counselor educator. As a doctoral student, I received the AARC Exemplary Research and Assessment award (2016) and this recognition (among many other experiences and mentorship moments) solidified my belief that I could produce meaningful research. Now, as an Associate Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University I aim to share my passion for research and build research efficacy and skills with our students. My skills with organization and communication, coupled with my passion for research make me well-qualified for the role of Member at Large-membership with AARC. As a member of the AARC council, I would strive to reflect and promote the AARC vision for the advancement of assessment and research in the counseling profession to include diverse counselors, educators, students, researchers, and professionals that share in that goal. I appreciate your consideration for this position and look forward to continued engagement with AARC in the year ahead!

Association for Child and Adolescent Counseling (ACAC)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Maggie Parker

My name is Maggie Parker, and I am a long-time provider of child and adolescent counseling. I am grateful for the work that I do and am happy to support organizations that support other child and adolescent therapists. I served as a Trustee for the Board of ACAC in 2016–2018 and served as Secretary, President-elect, President, and Past President of the Virginia Association for Play Therapy. My goals for my potential presidency of ACAC include increasing member involvement and providing trainings, consultations, innovative research, and supports for child and adolescent therapists. I am an Associate Professor of Counseling and Human Development at the George Washington University and focus my research on examining the effectiveness of Child Centered Play Therapy, childhood trauma, and involving communities to enhance mental health supports for children and parents. I am excited for the opportunity to serve this great community providing essential services to this vulnerable population.

TRUSTEE, COUNSELOR EDUCATION

Amanda Winburn

I'm running for the position of Trustee-Counselor Education in the Division of Child and Adolescent Counseling (ACAC) because I am passionate about advocating for the mental health needs of children and adolescents. Over the last five years, I've had the pleasure of serving on both the Advocacy Committee (Co-Chair) and Emerging Leaders (Co-Chair), I believe that my experience with ACAC and my background in Counselor Education (Professor-University of Mississippi) make me well-suited to contribute meaningfully to the organization and its mission. If elected, my goal would be to use this opportunity to raise awareness, promote best practices, and support professionals working in this critical field. I appreciate your consideration and thank you for your support.

Michelle Hollenbaugh

I am honored to be considered for the position of Counselor Education Trustee. I have 13 years of experience as a counselor educator, and I am excited for the opportunity to serve ACAC in this capacity. I have spent my career focusing on evidence-based treatments for children and adolescents, and I am passionate about supporting counselors who work with this population. As Executive Editor of the ACAC newsletter, I have appreciated working with the Associate Editors to engage members with timely and relevant information. As Counselor Education Trustee, I will provide mentorship to emerging leaders, connect with committee chairs, and enthusiastically collaborate with the ACAC Board to maintain and increase the impact of ACAC for all counselors.

Jodi H. Manton

Dr. Jodi Manton is a Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor in the state of Louisiana and a National Certified Counselor. She has practiced in a variety of settings, including inpatient, community, and university facilities as well as serving as a school counselor for six years. For the past 3 years, she has owned and operated a private practice where she works with adolescents and adults with a variety of presenting concerns, including trauma, anxiety, depression and mood disorders, relational challenges, identity exploration, and phase of life difficulties. She also conducts family therapy at a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for adolescents. In addition to her clinical practice, Dr. Manton serves as a supervisor for Provisionally Licensed Professional Counselors and is an Associate Professor of Professional Practice with the Counselor Education Program at LSU. Dr. Manton's professional interests include school counseling, clinical mental health counseling, counseling adolescents and emerging adults, counseling service members and veterans and their families, family counseling, wellness-based approaches to counseling, trauma focused counseling, identity development, counseling across the lifespan, multicultural counseling, social justice and advocacy, research and professional publication, and counselor education and supervision.

Regine Ki Ki Chung

Regine K. Chung, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Niagara University. Her identity as a counselor educator is rooted in her multicultural clinical experience as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Certified Child-Centered

Play Therapist/Supervisor, and Certified Autism Specialist. Regine earned her PhD in Counseling from the University of North Texas and her Master of Social Science in Counseling from the City University of Hong Kong.

As a trilingual (English, Cantonese, Mandarin) counselor and supervisor, she has extensive clinical experience in both Hong Kong and the U.S., working with clients of all ages and diverse cultural backgrounds in university community counseling clinics, private practice, and both general and special education settings. Her pro-bono work in a domestic violence agency and a correctional institution has equipped her with advocacy skills to support marginalized populations.

Regine specializes in working with neurodivergent individuals and addresses clinical issues related to relational trauma and bicultural identity development. Her commitment to child and adolescent counseling is evident in her passion for evidence-based child-centered play therapy (CCPT) and child-parent relationship therapy (CPRT), particularly for children and families facing adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Her specialty in integrating expressive and experiential modalities in counseling effectively helps adolescent clients explore their cultural identities and address a wide range of clinical concerns.

Additionally, Regine has held leadership roles as a founding board member of the Hong Kong Academy of Play Therapy (HKAPT) and as a former Assistant Director of the University of North Texas Center for Play Therapy, where she collaborated with mental health clinicians worldwide to organize national and international conferences, multicultural webinars, and certification training.

TRUSTEE AT LARGE, MEMBER HEALTH

Bernie Rupe

I have 30 years of experience in the adventure therapy field and 15 years' experience working and managing Adventure Therapy programs. I am the founder and Executive Director of Chicago Voyagers, a non-profit charity providing free adventure therapy services to low-income youth of color. I hold these licenses and certifications: Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, Nationally Board-Certified Counselor, Certified Clinical Trauma Professional and Certified Clinical Adventure Therapist. I have developed a research informed, community-based model for providing clinical services to those in need and presented workshops twelve times at national and international conferences and published research in the field. I am an officer on the Board of the Association of Experiential Education and also on the Outdoor Behavioral Health Council's Proposal Selection Committee for the Outdoor Therapy Symposium. I have been a member of ACA for almost 20 years.

After many years in the field, I am interested in giving back to our counseling community and feel confident I can be successful in the role of Member Health Trustee. Part of the trustee role is to interface and communicate with committees. I have extensive experience with this, having founded a charity and served on many committees – keeping them abreast of each other's work while also working with my board of directors. I have been reviewing proposals for the Outdoor Therapy Symposium for two years now and presented many times at national conferences. This gives me a solid base to review proposals for the ACAC conference. My counseling career has been devoted to working with adolescents. Should you choose to elect me, I will work hard to complete my duties and work to take ACAC to the next level to provide an even greater impact to those in need.

Jenna Taylor

Over the past five years, I have served as the membership trustee for the North Carolina division of ACAC. In this role, I have tracked our divisions membership, promoted membership, contributed to the ACAC-NC newsletters, held annual membership drives, and facilitated continuing education. I would like to continue my involvement in ACAC as the trustee for membership health with the plans to support our members and grow our division.

I have earned my master's degree in clinical mental health counseling with a certificate in play therapy from the University of North Carolina Charlotte and my doctoral degree in counseling with a specialty in play therapy from the University of North Texas. During my time at UNT, I was an assistant director at the Center for Play Therapy where I oversaw the Child-Centered Play Therapy/Child-Centered Group Play Therapy/Child-Parent Relationship Therapy certification program, all continuing education trainings, conferences, and webinars, and approved provider standards and credentialing. Annually, I facilitated play therapy training for over 500 mental health clinicians and students.

I currently work in private practice seeing clients across the lifespan. I also see children in a local school for play therapy services. Lastly, I am an adjunct professor for the University of North Texas where I teach in their graduate counseling program.

My research and clinical work focus is on children, adolescents, and their families. As a previous special education teacher, I specialize in working with children with disabilities and value creating an inclusive space for all children to access mental health services.

ACAC is committed to supporting counselors who work with children and adolescents and as the trustee for membership health, I will continue this support and engagement with members.

Patricia Crook

Patricia Crook earned her MA in Counseling at Concordia University Irvine. She is a former public school teacher and currently a licensed mental health counselor (LMHC), academic advisor, student ADA coordinator, and adjunct instructor at Mesalands Community College, a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). Patricia works directly with at-risk, first-generation, and underserved dual enrollment teenagers, young adults, and non-traditional students. She also offers mental health services for students and staff.

Previously, Patricia provided counseling services with Mental Health Resources, Inc., for children, adolescents, adults, and families. As a former public school teacher, she advocated for marginalized students via her mentor role as an IEP/504 Plan coordinator. Additionally, Patricia was a lay pastoral counselor since 1994 serving parishioners and poverty-stricken community members. Since 2016, she and her family have volunteered their time to be rare disease mentors for Horizon Therapeutics.

Patricia wants to be the ACAC Member Health Trustee to help contribute to academic research and mentor future mental health counselors as a future counselor educator. Education is important. She is the daughter of migrant farmworkers who were illiterate and she became the first in her family to go to college via the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) with Cal State University. The primary goal of the CSU Educational Opportunity Program is to improve access to low-income, first-generation, and historically disadvantaged students with the potential for academic success by making higher education a possibility. Lastly, her research interests include early childhood

trauma, attachment disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and learning disabilities. Patricia lives in New Mexico with her husband and special needs son. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, mysteries, Kdramas, and cooking.

TRUSTEE AT LARGE, SCHOOL COUNSELING

Hibbah Agha

I worked as a school counselor as 7 years before stepping more into the private practice and counselor educator role. As School Counseling Trustee, I like to maintain this professional alignment with school counselors and advocate for their role.

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, ACAC

Emily Goodman-Scott

Dr. Emily Goodman-Scott has been an advocate for youth for approximately 20 years, including: special education teacher, school counselor, LPC, and professor-preparing the next generation of school counselors and mental health counselors. She is also a fierce advocate: working toward more equitable and just education systems.

She's been an ACAC leader for nearly a decade, including: President (2020–2021) and ACAC's Governing Council Representative (2022–2025). Here, she's contributed to ACA's vision, offering a voice for youth. Examples: (a) working with the current ACA president and staff toward a year-long emphasis on counseling youth- addressing the youth mental health crisis and the needs of youth historically marginalized (i.e., ACA member resources including: webinars, conference sessions, certificate, etc); (b) collaborating with ACA's legislative staff and other ACA leaders to develop advocacy plans to support school counselors in the anti-DEI climate; (c) highlighting more youth-focused counselors in ACA publications (i.e., member spotlight, website); (d) collaborate with other ACA divisions (i.e., gave a national panel presentation-sharing strategies for counselors to support LGBTQIA+ youth in the present climate). She is running for ACA Governing Council for a second term, to continue and expand on this work.

Dr. Goodman-Scott is a leader at the state-level, national-level, and even in her community: speaking to school boards, lobbying to legislators, and advocating for youth mental health at budget hearings. As a result of her work, she's a 2023 ACA Fellow, 2020 ACA Research Award Recipient, and has received other national awards for her counseling leadership. Over nearly two-decades, she remains a dedicated advocate for counseling children and adolescents, as well as supporting the school counselors, mental health counselors, and graduate students who have also dedicated their careers to serving youth.

Thank you for considering me for a second term as the ACAC member on ACA's Governing Council.

Association for Creativity in Counseling (ACC)

TRUSTEE

Daisy Zhou

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for Trustee of the Association for Creativity in Counseling (ACC). The commitment to integrating creativity into our field has profoundly shaped my personal and professional journey. This integration is not just a theoretical framework for me; it's a practical approach I implement with clients, students, and advisees.

In my supervisor role, I employ drawing and sandtray activities to help supervisees engage in personal reflection, fostering deeper self-awareness. As a full-time counselor educator, I often showcase expressive art techniques in my classes and facilitate students' personal and professional development through creativity. I am also dedicated to researching the role of creativity in counseling and counselor education. My project on using creativity in group supervision aims to promote self-compassion among supervisees. These experiences affirmed my belief in the transformative power of creativity in counseling.

ACC has been my professional home due to its inclusive environment and rich resources. Attending the 2021 conference and participating in the 2022 World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID) deepened my appreciation for this community. Since then, I have served on the conference planning committee and volunteered at the conference and the WCID every year. These experiences further solidified my sense of belonging and admiration for the leadership within ACC. As an emerging leader, I have also attended all the ACC board meetings during the past two years and am proud of the past and present of ACC. I look forward to creating a bright future with my colleagues at ACC.

As a Trustee, I will advocate for creative approaches in counseling and counselor education, ensuring ACC remains a vibrant space for innovation and collaboration. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to this community.

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, ACC

Ruth Ouzts Moore

It is my honor to be nominated by the Association for Creativity in Counseling (ACC) for the position of Governing Council Representative. I have been on The Association for Creativity in Counseling board for 10 years. I served as secretary from July 2014–2016, president-elect from 2016-2018, president from 2018–2020, and past-president from 2020–2022. I served as the ACC Conference Program Chair from 2016–2018 and have served as Conference Program Committee Co-Chair from 2018 to the present. I started the Emerging Leader Program in 2015 and served as the Emerging Leader Committee Chair from 2015-2020. I am currently the Co-Chair of the ACC Awards, Emerging Leader, Grants, and Scholarship Committee and have served in this position since 2020. I was the recipient of the ACC Thelma Duffey Vision and Innovation Award in 2017, the ACC Professional Service Award in 2018, and the Lisa S. Sosin ACC Spirit Award in 2023. I am excited about the opportunity to serve on the American Counseling Association (ACA) governing council. I am eager to learn about and meet ACA's strategic goals, as well as how to address future issues that face the counseling profession.

American College Counseling Association (ACCA)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Gregory Bohner

It is an honor to be nominated for the President-Elect position for the American College Counseling Association (ACCA). I fondly remember attending my first ACCA meeting at the ACA conference in Pittsburgh back in 2010. Since that time, I have been involved with ACCA through presenting at numerous conferences and have had the opportunity to serve on the Executive Council for 7 out of the last 10 years as a Member-at-Large, representing graduate students and new professionals, and several terms as Treasurer. Additionally, I have worked on various ACCA committees, such as the Bylaws, Awards, and Conference committees.

In addition to my service to ACCA, college students have been my passion and life work for the past 20 years. I have worked in residence life, college counseling centers, disability support, and academic advising on the student affairs side of the house. Currently, I serve in a faculty role as an Assistant Professor in the School of Professional Counseling at Lindsey Wilson College. This has given me the opportunity to bring several students to the ACCA conference each year to help them experience this wonderful organization and contribute to the work that we do.

If I am elected to serve as the ACCA President-Elect, I look forward to the opportunity to continue learning from all of the great members of our organization. I will strive to continue the legacy of finding our path forward in serving college counselors across the country and helping them grow and develop resilience. Finally, I would consider it an honor to continue working with the Executive Council to determine long term solutions to navigating what the future holds for our great organization. Thank you!

TREASURER

Aaron Geringer

My involvement with ACCA began during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, a time when I felt particularly burned out in my work as a college counselor. The isolation of practicing counseling within higher education can be challenging, especially when many community counselor peers don't fully understand the unique dynamics of providing mental health services in higher education. ACCA has been instrumental in reducing that sense of isolation for me, helping me feel validated and empowered through education, innovative programming, and a broader understanding of systemic interventions on my campus.

I'm excited to run for Treasurer because I want to contribute to the positive impact ACCA has had on the careers of its members and help expand our efforts to reach new counselors. I believe in the collective wisdom of this organization and know ACCA has the potential to support more counselors across geographic barriers, enhancing their ability to serve students effectively.

In addition to my passion for supporting student mental health, I bring strong attention to detail and organization, which are crucial skills for the role of Treasurer. With seven years of experience as a counselor in higher education, I have developed a deep understanding of both the mental health needs of today's students and the importance

of systemic, campus-wide approaches to supporting them. I'm eager to give back to the organization that has been a big support to me and to help ACCA continue its work.

Christy Schulze

I am very excited to be considered for the role of ACCA Treasurer. Working in college counseling has been incredibly rewarding, but it also comes with its share of challenges. During some of those tougher times, I came to truly appreciate the value of being part of ACCA. Coming from a smaller institution, I often felt isolated, but I found connection and community with colleagues from across the country when I attended the ACCA monthly support groups and educational seminars. This community provided me with a sense of renewal and a wealth of new ideas to improve the work we were doing at my home institution.

Attending my first Annual Conference several years ago was another chance to absorb the passion and enthusiasm of other college counseling professionals, and I began looking for ways to contribute and give back to the organization. I have been a member of the Social Media Committee for almost two years, working to increase ACCA's presence and visibility online. I am excited for the opportunity to continue serving the organization in a new capacity as Treasurer.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE – COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Hoyam Tanon

I am honored to be nominated for the position of Member-at-Large for the American College Counseling Association. This opportunity allows me to contribute to the vital work of supporting counseling professionals and enhancing the quality of services we provide to students. With nine years of experience in counseling and higher education, I have developed a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in our field. My experience in counseling, teaching, and supervising counselors has equipped me to effectively address the diverse needs of students, staff, and faculty.

In various leadership roles such as clinical director, coordinator, and adjunct professor I have successfully led initiatives to enhance student services and promote mental health awareness on campus. My collaborative approach has fostered strong relationships with colleagues and stakeholders. I am dedicated to advocating for the counseling profession through my involvement with the ICA, where I focus on advancing policies that promote awareness and knowledge for counseling students and professionals regarding their advocacy roles. By collaborating with stakeholders and policymakers, I strive to create impactful initiatives that address the needs of those we serve.

My commitment to community outreach and advocacy for refugee and undocumented populations has deepened my dedication to supporting marginalized communities and promoting inclusivity within our counseling practices.

As a Member-at-Large, I aim to amplify the voices of counseling professionals within our association. I believe that through collaboration and shared leadership, we can enhance the resources and support available to our members. My goals include strengthening networks among counselors in community colleges, advocating for policies that enhance funding for counseling programs, and promoting the implementation of evidence-based practices.

I am excited about the potential to contribute to the American Counseling College Association and to work alongside dedicated professionals who share a commitment to excellence in counseling. Thank you

Jessica Contreras

I am honored to be considered for the Member-at-Large position with the American College Counseling Association (ACCA). With ten years in the field and a focused commitment to community college mental health over the past five years, I have cultivated a robust background that aligns well with this role.

Since entering higher education in 2019, I utilized my community mental health experience to help establish a new student mental health program at Joliet Junior College in Illinois. During my beginning efforts, I connected with ACCA for additional support and quickly became involved in their initiatives. My involvement with ACCA has deepened my understanding of mental health in community colleges, allowing me to connect with peers and share valuable insights. I have actively contributed as a member of the Community College Subcommittee, shared strategies for serving Latino/a populations during an ACCA Lunch and Learn, and presented at the 2023 ACCA Conference, showcasing innovative approaches to building mental health program within a community college setting.

Since then, I have shifted into the role of Director of Counseling & Holistic Student Support at Moraine Valley Community College. This has allowed me to bring an administrative perspective to enhancing initiatives while maintaining a direct focus on student needs. Additionally, my background as a multicultural and trauma-informed clinician equips me to address the barriers community college students face in accessing mental health services.

I believe in the power of culturally responsive care and have seen its impact on student success. I recognize that teamwork and advocacy are essential for enacting positive policy changes that support students effectively. I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the ACCA board, where I can advocate for community college mental health representatives and contribute my expertise to further ACCA's mission. Thank you for considering my nomination.

Gina Krysl

My name is Gina Krysl and I am excited about the possible opportunity to serve our association. I serve as Director of Student Care and Outreach at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska.

I grew up on a farm in rural Nebraska and don't recall ever hearing the words "mental health" or "counseling" until I was a young college student. I started my college education through community college, which provided a strong foundation for my career. I entered the counseling field in 2015 as a graduate student after working in nonprofit advocacy, with domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. In working with survivors, I became very curious about trauma and the impact it has.

I enjoy the power of education, whether that is pursuing a degree, providing training on campus, or simply having conversations that enlighten others on the work we do and what challenges students are facing today. Bringing others into my world to create

understanding of mental health challenges on campus is one of my favorite and fulfilling things to do.

As a member of ACCA, I utilize resources, attend our conference, participate in our Community College monthly meetings, and utilize the ACCA community college survey results into my work to advocate for more staff and services. I have served my community in different volunteer capacities over the years. Currently, I serve as President of our local CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Volunteer Board of Directors and on the Advisory Board for Nebraska Collegiate Prevention Alliance. I work closely with our state behavioral health workforce development center and received grant funds to expand our staff and resources at our campus. I am thrilled to have a potential opportunity to serve nationally on this committee.

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, ACCA

Raime Thibodeaux

Hello and thanks for taking the time to read all nomination summaries to inform your vote!!

A little bit about me: College counseling has been my professional career path since 2007 where I started off as a clinician then progressed to assistant director, then director roles, all at university counseling centers. As a first-gen student and Pell Grant recipient myself, I know the transformative power that college can have on one's life trajectory, and my work in college mental health has always come from a "pay it forward" perspective—to give to others the support that was given to me so long ago.

A little bit about my prior service: I have served in the roles of Secretary and then later on as President for ACCA in prior years. I was beyond honored to be nominated to serve in the role of Governing Council representative for this election cycle—this position feels like the natural next progression in my service to the profession.

If selected, I look forward to being of service to the profession, both with ACCA and as a connection point to ACA's governing council.

Kaethe D.B Hoehling

I am seeking the opportunity to serve as the ACCA Governing Council Representative for the upcoming term, 2025-2028. I am committed to working within our communities of practice to support students and their development. I have worked as a professional counselor for over 20 years and as the Director of Counseling Services within a higher education setting for almost 5 years. I am proud that ACCA adheres to a mission to promote social justice and I hope to join in the organization's efforts to elevate the collegiate experience towards equity, respect, and enhanced opportunities.

I am currently serving within my state branch of ACA/SAIGE (ArCA/ArSAIGE) as the division president and my current term will conclude in the summer of 2025. I then, with your support and vote, will be able to focus attention on the responsibilities of the Governing Council Representative position and bring my experiences with listening, leading, facilitating, and advocating. I also hope to bring certain lived experiences to this role. I have been both a 'traditional' and a 'non-traditional' learner, in that, although I began my path in higher education as a student straight from high school,

my educational and career path took turns and developments that placed me in a more 'non-traditional' role later. Life responsibilities and experiences placed higher education out of reach at certain periods of my life and I was, thankfully, able to return to degree seeking in different seasons and conditions of growth and change. I believe that having an appreciation for these experiences and varied perspectives as a learner and a leader within higher education will allow me to serve you, serve ACCA, honor diversity, and serve the missions present at the intersection of professional counseling and higher education. I appreciate your consideration and time.

Association for Humanistic Counseling (AHC)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Bogusia Skudrzyk

I have had the honor of serving in membership and leadership capacities for ACA and its divisions for over 25 years; as a member and chair of various committees, as a President of ASGW, a presenter, and a writer. In addition, the 30 years of full-time experience as faculty, clinician, supervisor, have informed my professional identity anchored in humanistic values, theories, therapies, and approaches.

I have experienced firsthand the unwavering dedication of AHC members. I remain inspired by its leaders that cultivate a sense of community leading to transformation, through humanistic practices that remain anchored in valuing diversity, research and practice. Therefore, I would love to carry on with its mission, through humanistic group work. Words of Helen Keller, "alone we can do so little, together we can do so much", resonate with me as those illuminate the humanistic focus that AHC fosters. Maya Angelou's words- "there is no greater agony than bearing untold story inside you" remind me of the importance of remaining anchored in humanistic approaches so that wellness can be cultivated, healing can be fostered and suffering alone can be reduced/eradicated. After all, it is the "direction, not a destination (Rogers) that matters as "overcoming difficulties can lead to courage, self-respect, and knowing yourself" (Adler) can remain at the forefront of our professional identity and our professional home, AHC.

Others describe me as someone who connects, cares, helps to bring people together, values diversity, embraces change, consistently shows curiosity about the way things are and the way they can be so that humanity remains alive in our communities. I am humbled by these descriptions and as an AHC President, I see myself as a leader who facilitates the role of a president through connecting, caring, and collaboratively working together.

Timothy "T.J." Schoonover

My name is Dr. Timothy "T.J." Schoonover, and I am thrilled to be running for President-Elect of the Association for Humanistic Counseling (AHC). With both the experience and passion for this field, I believe I am well-positioned to be a strong leader for AHC. Over the past few years, I have had the privilege of contributing to AHC in various capacities. I was honored with the Outstanding Dissertation Award in 2022, and I have served on several committees, including Communications, Awards, and Conference Engagement. Additionally, I've reviewed for the Journal of Humanistic Counseling and evaluated proposals for the annual conference. Currently, I am also serving as President of the

Illinois Association for Play Therapy, and I have completed numerous leadership trainings through the Illinois Counseling Association, American Counseling Association, and the Association for Play Therapy.

While my experiences have prepared me to lead, my greatest strength lies in my unwavering passion for humanistic counseling. As a humanistic counselor and educator, I hold a deep belief in the potential for personal growth when individuals feel safe, supported, and understood. I am committed to the core tenets of humanistic counseling, and I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of meeting clients and students with empathy, authenticity, and respect.

If elected, I will embody the core conditions of empathy, genuineness, and unconditional positive regard to foster an inclusive, collaborative, and empowering environment where every member of AHC feels valued and heard.

SECRETARY

Jyotsana Sharma

I have been a member of ACA for many years, serving the organization and its divisions in various capacities. I have served on committees for the ACA and AMCD (Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development). Most recently I have been involved in service to the Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling (AARC), first as an Emerging Leader and member of the Diversity and Social Justice Committee (DISJ) and then as Chair of DISJ from 2022-2025. I joined the Association of Humanistic Counseling (AHC) in 2023. I was requested to co-chair the AHC awards committee due to my experience serving as a member of the awards committees for AMCD and Virginia Counseling Association (VCA). I continue to serve as the co-chair for AHC awards committee this year. I hope to continue my service to the profession through the position of Secretary for AHC moving forward. I have enjoyed all my service positions throughout ACA and its divisions and hope that I can continue to bring energy and passion to serve the counseling community.

Matthew A. Gonzales

I'm grateful for the opportunity to formally submit my application for Secretary to the Board of the Association for Humanistic Counseling. I became a student member of AHC in 2020, and I'm confident I found my community within our profession.

I have remained active within AHC by serving with the Webinar Committee, co-facilitating our Fireside Chats, chairing the '24 Conference Scheduling subcommittee, and serving as a co-coordinator for the '24 conference. Furthermore, being selected and serving as an AHC Emerging Leader was one of the most meaningful experiences of my career. This experience further confirmed my desire to continue to serve my AHC community as Secretary of the Board.

I have served in multiple positions which qualify me to serve AHC as Secretary. As the University of Oklahoma Online Clinical Coordinator, serving our students, faculty members, site supervisors, and other stakeholders has especially prepared me to be the Secretary for AHC. Among other duties, I am currently compiling documentation for and writing the clinical section of our initial CACREP application. Recently, as AHC Conference Scheduling Subcommittee chair, I communicated with many presenters,

created the schedule for the conference, and answered any questions presenters had related to scheduling. These experiences demonstrate my ability to work with, synthesize, and organize large amounts of information from disparate sources. They also show I collaborate well with others, and clearly and succinctly communicate important information with various groups of stakeholders.

As a voting member of the Board, I understand the stakes of this responsibility. I have an informed outlook that will consistently represent the needs of AHC membership. My decision-making process is directed by existential-humanism and social justice, meaning my votes will be cast to support counselors' and their clients' ability to authentically self-actualize and pursue liberation.

Thank you greatly for your consideration.

Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Kristy Christopher-Holloway

I am seeking the position of president-elect for the Association for Multicultural Counseling & Development (AMCD) to continue my commitment to advancing multicultural counseling and humility. My past direct involvement with AMCD as the website and social media manager has allowed me to streamline communication efforts by establishing an efficient email system, that continues to be used. Additionally, my role as the professional development and social media chair enhanced a robust webinar series, meeting relevant continuing education needs for members. Currently, my role as the Southern Region Representative has equipped me with a deep understanding of AMCD's goals and operations.

Throughout my career, I have consistently demonstrated leadership in personal, professional, and academic settings, along with a strong dedication to service. My role as co-chair of the ACA of Georgia from 2022-2024 further highlights my commitment to fostering professional growth and advocacy within the counseling community.

As president-elect of AMCD, my primary goal is to provide strong support to the current president while gaining the insights and skills necessary to effectively lead AMCD in the future. I am dedicated to promoting multicultural competence and humility, enhancing professional development opportunities, and ensuring AMCD remains a leading force in the field of counseling.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Melanie Calhoun

I am running for the AMCD Student Representative position because I am committed to serving students and emerging professionals within our field. As the 2024-2025 ACA of Georgia Graduate Student Committee Chair, I have experience in leading student engagement and supporting professional development. Additionally, my role on the AMCD conference planning committee for the 2024 ACA Conference and Expo allowed me to support AMCD in promoting multicultural counseling by raising awareness, connecting with graduate students, and recruiting counselors to AMCD.

My leadership continues to grow, as I was selected as a SACES Emerging Leader, a role that has further developed my leadership skills through mentorship and advocacy. I support the students at my university through my position in Chi Sigma Iota as the current secretary for the Chi Epsilon Chapter at Georgia State University.

As an emerging scholar in multicultural counseling and development, I focus on addressing the unique challenges of individuals from marginalized identities, using culturally affirming approaches to empower my clients. Being a part of AMCD has introduced me to mentors and scholars who are doing this very important work.

AMCD is my counseling professional home, and I am committed to continuing my leadership journey within this division. I am particularly passionate about student empowerment and advocacy. If selected, this will be the first of many leadership roles I want to hold in AMCD, as I intend to serve AMCD throughout my career. My vision is to increase student involvement by creating spaces for collaboration, access, and professional growth, so that students feel empowered and supported in their educational and professional journeys.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, MID-WEST REGION

Claire Martin

As a person with diverse, marginalized identities, I possess a heightened awareness of race, gender, and class issues, and a deep understanding of the systemic structures that oppress underrepresented communities. Growing up in a working-class community in Haiti and spending much of my formative years in New York City, I developed a strong sense of the importance of leveraging education, expertise, and lived experiences to empower marginalized communities and create pathways for others.

My qualifications for the Midwest Regional Representative position are grounded in my commitment to addressing issues affecting diverse and marginalized groups and a proven record in anti-racist work. For the past seven years, I used my academic platform to raise critical awareness about racial and gender-based inequities, as well as policies and practices that perpetuate colonizing and oppressive structures. I have presented nationally and internationally on issues related to racial trauma, Black women's experiences in academia, and the challenges immigrants and refugees face in the U.S. due to xenophobia and racism.

As the AMCD Governance Chair, I contributed to the development of the AMCD Code of Conduct. Additionally, I collaborated with the International Concerns group and the Botswana Counseling Association to advance the internationalization of the counseling profession, with a focus on global diversity. In my current role as Midwestern Regional Representative, I have worked closely with the African American Concerns group to provide high-quality educational workshops. These workshops aim to address the needs of marginalized communities while promoting healing from community violence and racial trauma.

If selected for this position, my primary goal is to collaborate with other ACA divisions to deepen understanding of the harmful effects of racism and discrimination through education, advocacy, community engagement, research, and innovative programming. Additionally, I hope to prioritize outreach and recruitment efforts to grow membership and broaden our impact.

American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Alexis Duggan

I am a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC), Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), and Doctoral Candidate with over ten years of experience in serving individuals with disabilities. I am seeking the office of president-elect to continue serving individuals with disabilities on a larger platform. I believe that adults and adolescents with disabilities should have access to independent living resources, be able reach their career aspirations, and have an enjoyable quality of life without the barriers that they often encounter. I have been a member of ARCA since 2017 and have had the opportunity to serve as student representative and attend several conferences where I have presented on topics to increase knowledge surrounding individuals with disabilities. I believe that the role of president elect would assist me in continuing this work for the disability community while also adding to the field of vocational rehabilitation through placing ARCA on the forefront within the counseling profession.

SECRETARY

Reginald Gladney

As the Secretary of ARCA, I aim to be a crucial element in maintaining flawless connectivity and coordination. The responsibility is to ensure the effective utilization of our leaders' time, especially when managing meetings. My organizational and administrative skills and your attention to detail will be apparent in each engagement you coordinate. With my extensive background in leadership and management spanning 16+ years, I am prepared to tackle massive administrative tasks with organized efficiency into a well-organized information repository and system. If elected and given the opportunity, my responsibility during my tenure will be to support the organizational elected leaders and members towards productive discussions that yield actionable outcomes to promote the Rehabilitation Counseling field. Whether it's a board meeting, virtual team gathering, or speaking to key stakeholders, you guarantee that my prior management experience brings a different perspective into the executed engagement. With over 25 years of experience, I have gained valuable transferable skills and knowledge in various roles, including providing vocational rehabilitation services, community mental health services in private areas, and state government vocational rehabilitation organizations. I hold undergraduate and graduate degrees with a Rehabilitation Counseling focus and a Master of Business Administration, and I am a doctoral candidate in Counselor Education and Supervision. I am certified as a Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) and a Vocational Evaluator (CVE). I served as the interim Southern Area Representation for ARCA in 2022-2023, finishing my two-year appointment on the education committee with CRCC. If elected, I promise to be skilled in both digital and traditional tasks. I will maintain seamless communication and operations, always act professionally, and put the Rehabilitation Counseling field first.

Angelica Woods-Smith

I have fourteen years of counseling experience, both in rehabilitation and mental health counseling and my current position allows me to integrate both worlds as the Director of Counseling, Disability and Testing Services at Northwest Mississippi Community College. For the first five years of my post-Masters career, with my CRC credential, I was as a VR counselor for the State of Tennessee and later recruited to supervise job coaches and employment specialists at a nonprofit that specialized in supported and customized employment for individuals with disabilities. In 2018, I transitioned to community mental health, where I obtained my LPC-MHSP credential in Tennessee and became a Clinical Supervisor of the CCBHC grant-funded program, Open Access. I later explored private practice for two years before I began my current position.

I am currently a doctoral student at University of Holy Cross for Counselor Education and Supervision and expect to graduate this Fall. I have presented at several conferences over the years, advocating for disability competency, ethics and best practices within the counseling education and profession. I am also a member of ACA, ACES, ARCA, and TCA professional organizations and serve as Membership Chair at West Tennessee Counseling Association.

I am seeking the position of Secretary of ARCA to continue my quest to advocate for this specialized profession in counseling, as well as continue my contribution to the rehabilitation field. As Secretary, I will bring my years of experience, my dedication, and success in leadership in this position.

Jinhee Park

I am honored to be nominated as a secretary of the ARCA. I am an Associate Professor and the program coordinator of the Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling program at Auburn University. I have been an active ACA and ARCA member since 2018. Previously, I had also served as a regional representative at the ARCA.

I believe the rehabilitation counseling profession has been in a critical status to grow more and be recognized as a counseling specialty advocating for and working with people with disabilities. In this way, the role of the ARCA within the ACA, as well as within the profession in general, will be crucial, and I am in great support of the ARCA being the leading professional organization to support students, professionals, educators, researchers, and consumers with disabilities.

I understand the responsibilities and duties of the secretary position at ARCA. I am currently serving as a secretary at the Asian Rehabilitation Counseling Society. My role as a program coordinator also shares responsibilities similar to those of the secretary position indicated in the position descriptions.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve as a secretary at the ARCA. I would like to be a part of the ARCA leadership.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Allie Trambow Ledbetter

I am honored to be considered for the role of Student Representative for the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA). As a counseling and rehabilitation student passionate about serving youth and adolescents with neurodevelopmental and intellectual disabilities, I am dedicated to advancing the field of rehabilitation counseling through advocacy, education, and service.

Throughout my academic and professional journey, I have actively pursued opportunities to gain diverse experiences and make meaningful contributions to the communities I serve. As Vice President of my program's Counseling and Rehabilitation Student Association, a PRN Clinical Counselor at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), and a volunteer with several organizations that support youth, adolescents, and transitioning adults with disabilities, I have developed strong leadership, communication, and collaboration skills. These experiences have not only strengthened my ability to advocate for underserved populations but also fueled my passion for supporting fellow students in their professional development.

As Student Representative, I will focus on amplifying students' voices and ensuring their perspectives and concerns are represented in ARCA's decision-making processes. I am committed to creating opportunities for students to engage in meaningful discussions, share resources, and collaborate on initiatives that enhance the field of rehabilitation counseling. Additionally, I will work to strengthen connections between students and professionals, fostering mentorship opportunities to guide the next generation of rehabilitation counselors.

I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to ARCA's mission and to serve my fellow students in this leadership role. Thank you for your consideration.

Melanie Jane Poe

I am a doctoral student at Utah State University. I received my master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from Western Washington University, and now work directly under Dr. Trent Landon in the Disability Disciplines PhD program in the Rehabilitation Counseling and Supervision specialization.

My research interests are in trauma-informed care, policy in vocational rehabilitation organizations, and disability legal ethics. I have a background in child advocacy in the dependency process as a guardian ad litem and am eager to take on any projects to deepen my understanding in the field of rehabilitation counseling, mental health, and advocacy for the disabled and the policy that serves them.

I am passionate about having the purpose to advocate as a student representative for the American Counseling Association. I strive to contribute to the field of counseling and will encourage and emulate alliance between the university setting and the ACA.

DIRECTOR, COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENT AND COLLABORATION

Monica E. Alharazim

Hello! I am Dr. Monica E. Alharazim and I have been nominated for the position of Director: Council on Development and Collaboration. Honestly, one of the things I have the most difficult doing is talking about myself, my accomplishments, and my abilities. This is not because I am under qualified, cannot articulate my qualifications, or that I am shy, but because I am more of a “Doer”.

If I am elected to this position. I will work to bridge the gap between my over 17 years of experience as a Rehabilitation Counselor in both private and public sector, my over 9 years of experience as a Licensed Professional Counselor in private practice, and my 5 years of experience as a Counselor Educator and Supervisor to provide meaningful programs to the members. If elected, I will not only bring my passion for working within this field, but my knowledge and experience. I accepted the nomination because I believe I can Direct, Serve, Organize, Plan, and Lead the Council on Development and Collaboration.

- For those who would like to know my qualifications:
 - I earned a PhD in Counselor Education & Supervision
 - I earned a Master of Science Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling
 - I earned a Bachelors Degree in Psychology
 - I have 17 years of experience in Vocational Rehabilitation Services
 - o 14 years in Public Sector Rehabilitation Counseling
 - 8 years as a Rehabilitation Counselor
 - 6 years as a Program Specialist
 - o 3 years a Vocational Expert for Social Security Administration
 - 9 years in Private Practice as a Licensed Professional Counselor
 - o 5 years as Board Approved Supervisor
 - Adjunct Professor at Local Community College

DIRECTOR, COUNCIL ON PUBLIC POLICY, PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND STANDARDS

Rebekah Lemmons

Dr. Rebekah Lemmons has worked in the non-profit mental health and rehabilitation areas since 2010. She has served the profession at large by engaging in roles with added responsibility, scope, and impact since beginning her career. Dr. Lemmons is an advocate for education, research, and high-quality service standards. Her experiences in leadership and service roles are an ideal match for this role as the director working with the Council on Public Policy, Professional Preparation and Standards.

As part of her achievements, she has obtained professional certifications, licensure, and advanced education to help expand her knowledge on key areas related to professional counseling. She has earned a doctorate in counselor education and supervision, holds a master’s degree in counseling and a bachelor’s degree in psychology and sociology.

Moreover, she has paired education with hands on experience during her leadership positions successively at a non-profit provider and as part of board service across professional organizations. While Rebekah is committed to core values of compassion, growth, wellness, and access to care at the highest standards, she has collaborated on initiatives to ensure that processes, advocacy and educational training efforts address core barriers to quality care.

Similarly, she has engaged in publishing, editorial board service for peer-reviewed journals and has deepened her professional scope by earning certifications as a perinatal mental health counselor, trainer certification in collaborative problem solving, certification in trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy and related advanced trainings. Much of her research has focused on wellness and self-care to foster counselor longevity and increase service access through educating new counselors and boosting key information paired with practical implications and resources for senior counselors. This helps to build a culture of healed healers.

Thank you for your consideration, service to the profession and vital work in the counseling field.

DIRECTOR, COUNCIL PUBLIC RELATIONS & AWARENESS

Eun-Jeong Lee

I, Dr. Eun-Jeong (EJ) Lee, am a full professor in the Department of Psychology, Division of Counseling and Rehabilitation Science at Illinois Institute of Technology. Since graduating from UW-Madison in 2007, I have been training counselors and educators who provide quality services to individuals with disabilities and promote equal opportunities for participation and independent living. With over 20 years in rehabilitation counseling, I am eager to bring my skills to ARCA by enhancing communication strategies, membership engagement, and outreach efforts.

I am applying for the Council on Public Relations and Awareness Chair position. My top priority as Chair will be to strengthen membership engagement and retention. With the dissolution of NCRE, more rehabilitation professionals have been seeking a community to share knowledge and collaborate. I aim to build stronger connections with other rehabilitation-related associations and engage more trainees and professionals in ARCA activities by creating mentorship opportunities and expanding webinar topics on professional issues in rehabilitation. Additionally, I will work on increasing ARCA's visibility within the larger rehabilitation and counseling fields by promoting the organization's mission, advocating for the rehabilitation profession, and highlighting key disability-related initiatives.

By creating stronger membership ties and expanding outreach, I am confident we can promote the critical work of ARCA and the rehabilitation counseling profession. Thank you for your consideration.

Randall Boen

I'm Dr. Randall Boen, and I wish to serve ARCA a second term as Director of Council on Public Relations & Awareness. Within this position, I have focused on member recruitment and revitalizing the ARCA's website. If given the opportunity to serve a second term, I look forward to focusing on student involvement in the organization and membership engagement.

I obtained my PhD in Rehabilitation in 2018 from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. My clinical experiences included being an adult outpatient counselor for a community mental health agency in Illinois. I currently serve as an assistant professor at the University of Iowa. At the university, I teach within the Department of Counselor Education in the Rehabilitation and Clinical Mental Health master Programs. I have also been involved in many national counseling related organizations including Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment Professionals (VECAP) and CRCC.

Association for Spiritual, Ethical and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Anita A. Neuer Colburn

As a long-time member and past board member of ASERVIC, I am honored to be nominated for President-Elect.

My multiple roles in the Counselor Education world are informed by my own spiritual journey, as I believe are yours. Incorporating this vital element of our uniqueness into our work promotes mutual understanding and growth in the presence of potential discord and confusion. We have much to learn from one another and teach each other about ethical integration, regardless of our own identities and orientations. I hope to help nurture our members' own spiritual awareness as they integrate religion and spirituality into their counseling, teaching, supervision, and leadership roles.

Our ongoing development can also be enriched by communing with other like-minded helping professionals. One of my hopes for ASERVIC is that we find ways to network with other practitioners committed to the ethical integration of religion and spirituality in the helping process.

ASERVIC members are the heart of our organization and remain committed to the challenge of finding ways to be truly inclusive of all religious/spiritual belief systems. I will encourage our members to find ways to prioritize and operationalize inclusivity within their personal workspaces and outward toward the greater counseling community. As Desmond Tutu stated, "the world has great instinct for goodness, rebirth, mercy, beauty, truth, freedom, and love." The commonalities among world religions and the vast array of spiritual belief systems affirm this possibility and create a foundation upon which true equity and inclusion can and must be accomplished. My hope is that ASERVIC will continue to grow and that our members will be light in darkness, hope in doubt, and faith in fear... for each other, and for those whom we serve.

Thank you for considering me for this important role in our organization.

SECRETARY

Michelle Hollomon

I hope to contribute to the ongoing value ASERVIC provides to the professional counseling community through advocacy, leadership, and education. Spirituality is a salient part of identity and a pathway to personal growth. I value the opportunity to

uphold the ASERVIC competencies. I appreciate ASERVIC's cross-cultural approach to counseling and education and adhere to the recognition that each person has infinite dignity, potential, and value. I serve on several boards, including the ACA Bylaws Committee, and am familiar with the responsibilities and commitments of professional service and advocacy. My research interests include the impact of spiritual transcendence on professional quality of life, posttraumatic growth, and trauma-informed supervision.

Sean M. Ridge

My primary reason for seeking this office is my desire to serve in role that will contribute to an atmosphere where other initiatives and individuals with passion can thrive. I am a strong advocate for ASERVIC and the opportunities we have to equip academics and practicing professionals. I deeply appreciate the statement within our mission: "Through research and practice, ASERVIC empowers and enables the exploration, development, and expression of spiritual, ethical, and religious values relating to the person, society, and counseling professional."

I have attempted to embody this desire in my professional journey, which has included:

- Serving a core faculty within a CACREP accredited graduate counseling program, at various times filling the roles of Program Director, Internship Coordinator, and/or Assessment Coordinator. I was Program Director when we brought our curriculum and training program into compliance with CACREP accreditation standards and achieved our initial accreditation.
- Serving as Dean of the School of Social & Behavioral Sciences, providing administrative support and leadership to undergraduate programs in psychology, family studies (NCFR credentialed), and organizational psychology as well as student services provided by a University Counseling Center.

Currently I serve as Program Director of our Graduate Counseling Program and am at a point I am able to recommit to voluntary service within ASERVIC. Previously I have served as Co-Chair of the Awards Committee within ASERVIC, and look forward to new opportunities to provide support and service. Specific to the role of Secretary, I hope to bring:

- Organizational skills – developed through years of administrative oversight of multiple programs, university policies and procedures, and record keeping and data management
- Communication skills – honed both in clinical contexts as well as within collegial relationships with faculty, administrators, and program and university constituents

Christopher Todd

Greetings, I am Dr. Christopher Todd, and it is my honor to be nominated for the office secretary for the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling. I a graduate of the University of Memphis with a PhD in counselor education and supervision. I a certified rehabilitation counselor, a licensed associate counselor in Arkansas, and a licensed school counselor in both Arkansas and Tennessee. I currently serve as assistant professor of counseling and am the president-elect-elect of the Arkansas Counseling Association. It has been my privilege to serve is an ordained minister for over 20 years. My research interests include religion and spirituality in

counseling, multicultural issues in counseling, accessibility, and student success. My current research explores questions of theology on individual and corporate meaning making.

I believe in the importance of integrating religion and spirituality into counseling practice and addressing the harms of religious trauma. My work as a professor and clinician aligns with the principles and values of ASERVIC and I look forward to serving as secretary for the organization. It is my hope to not only add my voice to the conversation around spiritual, ethical and religious values in counseling, but to also serve as a voice for others.

Odalis Romero

I am seeking the position of Secretary for ASERVIC to contribute my extensive background in counseling and education, as well as my passion for integrating spiritual, ethical, and cultural values into practice. I not only have professional counseling experience but am also completing my doctorate in counselor education and supervision at Liberty University. I have had the opportunity to be committee chair in an ACA and an FCA committee. I also have had the opportunity to present at both FCA and ACA conferences. One thing about me is that I am passionate about the profession and am always eager to lend a helping hand for the professional organizations to continue to flourish, which is what can expect from me as your ASERVIC secretary.

Sapna Singh

I seek your support for my nomination for the position of Secretary of ASERVIC.

I am a currently a graduate student at San Francisco State University set to graduate in May 2025 with an MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. I hope to serve as I am shown the way. Liberation of all communities, social justice and intersectionality is a core value of our program at SF State, one that has strongly resonated with me. As counselors, we must approach our clients with humility and curiosity. For this to happen, we must commit to lifelong learning about what infuses our life with value as human beings, and advocate for pluralistic pathways to healing in our field.

As I explore and grow, I have immersed myself in my diverse cultural and spiritual heritage. In that same spirit, I strive to be open to the universe, my community, neighbors, peers, people I work and volunteer with, folks I meet every day by happenstance, and the ones I seek out to guide me. I treasure the generous spirit with which folks share their spiritual, religious, and cultural values. This is what led me to become a member of ASERVIC. I express my gratitude to the members and presenters who have made invaluable contributions to our division.

It is with this spirit that I seek to serve ASERVIC in the position of Secretary. I will continue the work of our Division in promoting spiritual, ethical and religious values in all aspects of counseling. In the past, I have served as a board member of a nonprofit as well as Chair of the Board at a Community College Foundation. I have volunteered with many community organizations. I am qualified to serve as a secretary and commitment to ASERVIC motivates me to humbly seek your support.

Mary K. Whiting

As a doctoral candidate in Counselor Education and Supervision at the University of Texas at San Antonio, my research focus on religious and multicultural counseling aligns seamlessly with ASERVIC's mission to empower the exploration, development, and expression of spiritual, ethical, and religious values in counseling. My work, recognized by consecutive ASERVIC Research Awards in 2023 and 2024, demonstrates a commitment to advancing this mission through rigorous academic inquiry.

My role as ASERVIC Graduate Student Representative and Co-Chair for the Emerging Leader Program has provided invaluable insights into the organization's operations and needs. These experiences have prepared me to take on the responsibilities of secretary with a deep understanding of ASERVIC's goals and challenges.

Active membership in ACA, ACES, and TCA has broadened my perspective on the counseling profession, enabling me to effectively represent ASERVIC's interests in collaborative efforts with other organizations. This multifaceted involvement enhances my ability to contribute to ASERVIC's aim of integrating ethical considerations across various counseling specialties.

My counseling PLLC, has allowed me to work with clients who have experienced suboptimal care and has sharpened my awareness of the critical need for culturally humble, spiritually integrated counseling – a core focus of ASERVIC.

As secretary, I would leverage these experiences to support ASERVIC's mission, ensuring that our organizational practices and initiatives consistently reflect our commitment to the counseling profession.

GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Elizabeth Humphrey

As a Licensed Professional Counselor and a current PhD Student in Counselor Education and Supervision, I highly value integrating spirituality and religion into clinical practice, supervision, and teaching. As a therapist, I have seen firsthand how ignoring this essential part of client identities can lead to missing out on accurately knowing and treating our clients. As a supervisor, I have been privileged to introduce my supervisees to the value of discussing religious and spiritual experiences with clients. I have previously served on professional organizations including my local chapter of Chi Sigma Iota and previously as part of the Georgia College Counseling Association, The American College Counseling Association Graduate Students and New Professionals (GSCP) Committee, and the Georgia College and University Suicide Prevention Coalition. In addition to my role as a PhD student, I work at a private practice specializing in developmental and religious Trauma. I hope to continue to grow the field of religious trauma with my dissertation research. As the graduate student representative for ASERVIC, I hope to help bring more awareness about ASERVIC to others and to help provide a student perspective to the organization.

Margaret Poandl

As a doctoral student with a clinical mental health counseling background, I've witnessed the healing and transformative power of religion and spirituality in session. Accordingly, my research interests include spirituality and posttraumatic growth (PTG), as I am passionate in exploring the ways that counselors can guide individuals towards transcendence. I am interested in a board position as Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling's (ASERVIC) graduate student representative because of this passion, and I would be honored to help advocate for ASERVIC's values within the counseling profession. Clinically, I have worked in a variety of settings over the past 12 years, including inpatient, community, educational and private practice, and I am trained in eye-movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR). As a doctoral student, I have published a paper on using EMDR to promote PTG, presented twice at ASERVIC's national conference in June, and received three research grants over the past six months, including one from ASERVIC, to further my PTG research aims. I strongly believe in the value of research of strengths-based and trauma-informed approaches that incorporate spirituality and religion in order to best serve counselors and their clients. I feel that these qualifications, along with my desire to help serve an organization that promotes values near and dear to my counselor heart, make me an excellent fit for the graduate student representative role. Thank you for your consideration.

Samantha M. Turner

My name is Samantha Turner, and I live and practice as a counselor in Greenville, South Carolina, with over ten years of experience in both school and clinical/mental health counseling. Currently, I work in private practice, where many of my clients express a strong spiritual identity and/or religious affiliation. According to the PEW Research Center (2023), "7 in 10 U.S. adults describe themselves as spiritual in some way, including 22% who are spiritual but not religious." My interest in the ethical integration of spirituality in counseling grew from my work with clients, where spirituality and religion often emerge, whether through personal beliefs or experiences of religious trauma. I see how spirituality can provide hope, resilience, and strength in the face of adversity and injustice, making it crucial to incorporate this perspective into counseling ethically. Despite limited training in this area during my master's program and internships, I recognize spirituality as a powerful protective factor. However, it can also be a source of harm if not handled carefully. As a second-year doctoral student at Adams State University, I hope to research this intersection in the future and advocate for improved training, supervision, and ethical guidelines. Serving on the ASERVIC board would allow me to contribute through service and advocacy, helping advance the organization's mission while supporting graduate students beginning their careers.

James Rice

I have a master's degree in pastoral ministry and have volunteered for 25+ years in this capacity to help those struggling with issues of faith and spirituality in my community. I am enrolled in a master of clinical mental health (Year 2) to become a licensed mental health counselor so I can provide more holistic support to those in need.

Katie Hinkle

I received an MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (May 2023) and am currently pursuing a PhD in Combined Counseling and School Psychology. Throughout my masters I had an interest in learning about integrating clients' spiritual/religious beliefs into the counseling space, thereby taking additional coursework on topics of Counseling and Spirituality. Additionally, I chose a masters-level internship site that further enhanced my knowledge, skills, and clinical experiences in ethically integrating religious and spiritual beliefs and practices into counseling.

This continues to be an interest as I pursue my PhD. Currently, I am facilitating a qualitative research project on the benefits of collaboration between faith leaders and counseling psychologists to mutually support clients from faith backgrounds presenting with mental health conditions that necessitate the involvement of a professionally trained and licensed mental health practitioner. I will explore the beliefs, values, training, scope of practice, and treatment procedures of both religious leaders offering counseling to practitioners and counselors/psychologists that also provide direct services to clients.

I strongly believe that the inclusion of the client's spiritual and religious faith can be a source of hope and meaning and has the potential to create a therapeutic environment that recognizes and honors the client's values and available resources to promote healing, resilience, and post-traumatic growth. Furthermore, I am trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) and take a trauma-informed approach with my clients at Redemption Counseling Center (RCC) as a Licensed Associate Counselor. Many clients seek treatment at RCC because of the faith integration offered throughout all stages of the treatment process. It is my hope to contribute to the community of likeminded professionals all seeking to better understand the complexity of religious and spiritual integration in the mental health field and serve the ASERVIC community as a student representative.

Nikki McBride

As a graduate student at Ashland Theological Seminary (Ohio) I was initiated into the Chi Sigma Iota honors society after academically excelling my first semester and maintaining work and life balance. Prior to starting my college career, I was a member of Youth With A Mission (YWAM) where I served the ministry as a leader in training programs and outreach teams as my call in the Great Commission. As a current active member of Grace Church, I serve in the Youth Group ministry as I believe it is of vital importance to invest in the future generations and the Church.

My intention to run as a board member is to be a part of the ASERVIC team and grow in leading positions as I begin my counseling career. In doing this, I can promote ASERVIC's values and commitment while being an agent to the counseling field as a graduate student during my internship. I believe this first step in serving as a member of the ASERVIC board will direct me in the continuation of building the counseling industry with quality people in an association that agrees with my personal professional identity and spiritual values.

Andrew Acuna

Candidate information not available.

BOARD MEMBER

Christopher B. Townsend

I am Christopher Townsend, a servant leader, employing my gifts to improve the human condition. Integrating spirituality into clinical practice is necessary to assist seekers of wellness. Clients present to therapy with beliefs and practices that are intervention resources for the counselor. During the past 24 years, my most memorable counseling cases are centered in spirituality work across mental health and addictions disciplines. In my religious practices I have served the church and community for the past 14 years with spiritual guidance and interventions to resolve conflicts. My travels have taken me to African countries to train clinicians in the Mental Health Facilitation (MHF) model. These clinicians provide the MHF training to community leaders of Muslim and Christian faiths. My first publication, titled *Respecting Religion and Spirituality in Evidenced-Based Practices*, was published in *Counselor: The Magazine for Addiction Professionals*, 4(14), pp. 10-17. This article captures my philosophy of integrating spirituality as a therapeutic resource for healing. Most recently, I presented with colleagues at the 2024 ASERVIC virtual conference on Spiritual Bypassing. I'm currently collaborating with colleagues to address other gaps in the literature to address spiritual conflicts that are not addressed by behavioral health. As a subject matter expert in Multicultural Counseling at The University of the Cumberlands, I teach students to include spirituality as a part of their clinical work, allowing clients to teach them about their beliefs. This allows the counselors to better intervene in a more culturally responsive manner. Joining the ASERVIC board will allow me to continue advocating for this critical aspect of the counseling profession. I bring leadership as a past Director of a behavioral health and wellness clinic, past Treasurer of the National Board for Certified Counselors Foundation, and current member of the ACA Governance and Board Operations Committee.

Heidi L. Henry

It is an honor to be running for the ASERVIC Board member position. I first began my membership in ASERVIC in 2016 and shortly after, I assumed and maintained leadership positions within the organization. I have served as Assistant Editor and Editor of *Interaction*, ASERVIC's newsletter for a combined 4 years. Then I served as a member of the Spiritual and Religious Values Committee, and for the past three years, I have been the Secretary for ASERVIC. I believe my involvement in these roles is evidence of my dedication to advancing ASERVIC and its mission of infusing spiritual, ethical, and religious values into the counseling profession. In addition to my involvement in ASERVIC, I have also served in various leadership positions in state and regional counseling associations.

I am currently an Assistant Professor at St. Bonaventure University, a Licensed Professional Counselor, and have counseled in both clinical and school settings. During both my clinical and teaching experience, I have approached clients and students with cultural humility, affirming those whose religious and spiritual beliefs differ from my own. Through my experience in ASERVIC, I have come to appreciate how the organization's leadership has also valued diverse religious and spiritual perspectives and sought to bridge gaps among populations historically marginalized by religious institutions. If elected to the ASERVIC Board, I will work to continue the vision of recognizing the value in all religious and spiritual perspectives, while promoting the ethical use of religion and spirituality in the counseling profession.

Greg Sandman

Hello! I am an Assistant Professor in the Counselor Education program at Eastern Kentucky University and I am currently the secretary for Kentucky ASERVIC. I served in Christian ministry for over 20 years prior to returning to school for my Master's in Clinical Mental Health and my PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision. As a former pastor of a Christian church, I recognize the importance of religion and spirituality upon many persons whom counselors have the opportunity to interact with on a daily basis. I believe everyone is impacted in various ways by spiritual or religious events, directly and indirectly. These may be quite personal events, such as a personal conversion experience, or these might be more global events, such as the war in Palestine currently taking place. Religion and spirituality (R/S) are essential dynamics that when we address them with our clients may lead to enhanced therapeutic outcomes. Providing a safe space for clients to discuss R/S in safety and with ethical boundaries is vital, helpful, and yearned for by most clients. In many of the courses that I teach, including Multicultural Counseling, Addiction Counseling, and Clinical Sexuality, often the topic that unites these courses is R/S. For the Fall 2024 semester, the University invited me to design a course on Spirituality, which is now taking place and aptly named Integrating Spirituality in Mental Health Care. In this course, all persons of faith or no faith are included. My desire to serve on the Board of ASERVIC is to support efforts to expand the teaching of and enhance the dialogue around religious and spiritual issues in the counseling profession. I believe this will increase the effectiveness of counselors as they address this important yet often overlooked area with confidence and authenticity.

Shelly M. Mohnkern

I have been an active Maryland therapist since 2018, and received my Master's degree in Clinical Counseling and Spiritual Integration from the Loyola University Maryland's Pastoral Counseling program. My focus throughout my counseling career has been to integrate client spirituality into their treatment as a source of strength and a key focus to define their lives and goals, when appropriate for the client. My own personal spiritual journey has been the path-working of a pagan interfaith minister, as well as a counselor, and I bring those representations to the table, to help ensure that we have a wide-reaching and more complete representation and perspective in ASERVIC.

I hope to be able to serve the ASERVIC community for years, and to learn how ASERVIC runs so that eventually I may be suited to take the lead and help form and support ASERVIC's mission by serving as President, but I need to "get my feet wet" and find my pace by learning how to best support the organization through offering my service to the Board.

Kathy D. Richardson

Kathy D. Richardson is an Assistant Professor in the counseling program at Lebanon Valley College and the owner of Conestoga Counseling & Consulting, LLC in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in the state of Pennsylvania, a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC), and a Registered Play Therapy Supervisor (RPT-S). She earned her PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision at Loyola University Maryland's Pastoral Counseling department. Her dissertation focused on religious and spiritual competency in mental health providers.

Kathy has served as the membership chairperson for ASERVIC from 2021–2023 and presently is the co-chairperson for this committee. Under her leadership, the structure of

the committee changed to better serve the members of ASERVIC, moving from primarily an administrative service (welcome emails to new and renewing members, reminders to renew membership, and membership certificates) to focusing on engaging members of ASERVIC. The goal of the committee now is to help members become involved with the day-to-day work of the organization and feel connected to the ASERVIC community.

In addition, Kathy currently serves as the President of the Pennsylvania state branch of ASERVIC, PASERVIC. PASERVIC is an active branch that holds monthly grounding support groups, a presentation track at the annual state conference, and annual spring webinars to keep members engaged and informed. Kathy is working with the Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values (SERV) chair and graduate-student representatives to embark on a state-wide needs assessment and outreach program to counselors, counselors-in-training, and graduate faculty in PA.

As an ASERVIC board member, Kathy would like to focus on engaging members throughout the organization to connect them with the various committees and projects that the board is working on. In addition, she would like to build a stronger connection between the state branches and the national organization.

DeAron Washington

My name is DeAron Washington and I am an Assistant professor at Belhaven University, which is a Christian private college. I have presented in professional and clinical settings on the significance of spirituality and the effective utilization of the innate tools with religious organization to help clients pursue wellness. I would love to have a chance to advocate and champion use of spirituality and religion as tools to aid clients in health on a national level. My training is from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where the ethical use of spirituality and religious is emphasized. I have taught students about how to discern what it best when it comes to religion and spirituality. I would love the chance to use my voice to aid ASERVIC and counselors around the nation to holistically serve their clients.

Paul Paiva

I would be honored to serve as a board member of ASERVIC. I believe I can offer the board a unique diversity of spirituality, religion and ethics, that can benefit our mission and our constituents. My present practice is one of Couples Counseling – to people of both religious and non-religious backgrounds, and I conduct workshops for churches of a variety of denominations. My specialty is the unraveling and education of erroneous theological teaching taught in Christian churches, that may be in conflict with typical ethical and counseling practices. For example, I am versed on pros/cons of religious arguments regarding reproductive care, and the role of gender in relationship and how it may contribute to domestic violence and marital rape, addressing the complex theological underpinning of these beliefs. I am a former Roman Catholic priest with a Master of Divinity and Master of Arts with emphasis in Counseling. Yet, I have been a proud Protestant for the past twenty years, having spent time in several denominations and non-denominational churches. Moreover, I am a person of color (brown-skinned) with Asian with European ancestry. This means my childhood neighbors were Buddhist, Jewish, Hindu, and Moslem; my family values and life path has demonstrated to me the importance of religious diversity and acceptance. I do have personal and professional contacts representing all these traditions. Thank you for considering my application!

Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Yanhong Liu

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for President-Elect of the Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW). My journey with the ASGW began in 2019 when I fell deeply in love with engaging group work training and research. Through later leadership roles and experiences with the ASGW, I developed a profound understanding of the association, and its mission and values. I have served as the Vice Chair and Chair of the Research Committee between 2020 and 2023, and since July 2023, I have continued to actively contribute as a member of the Research Committee.

During my terms as Vice Chair and Chair of the Research Committee, I led and co-led innovative group research initiatives. I collaborated with ASGW leaders and the JSGW Editor to propose, develop, and implement the inaugural group research mentorship program designed to foster research excellence and support emerging scholars in group work.

My broader commitment to ASGW is driven by my passion for group work practice and research and a dedication to learning and growth as it pertains to group work training. My understanding of ASGW, coupled with my leadership involvement both within ASGW and the ACA, have prepared me to contribute effectively to the ASGW's advancement. My values of and skills in community-building, multicultural competence, and cultural humility align closely with the core principles of ASGW.

As President-Elect, I am committed to advancing ASGW through evidence-based initiatives, streamlining policies and standards, and enhancing the association's visibility within and collaboration across the counseling and group work communities. I look forward to co-developing meaningful goals, fostering collaborative relationships, and sustaining productive and growth-enhancing professional environments to serve the membership of ASGW. In doing so, I endeavor to enact culturally sensitive efforts and to leverage my leadership skills to foster a cohesive community.

SECRETARY

Madeleine Stevens

I am eager to continue serving ASGW as Secretary of its Governing Process Committee. Since 2018, I have served as an active servant leader as a member and then chair of the Research Committee, during which time I have demonstrated skill in managing several committee projects, including the ASGW grant program, conference presentations, networking events, and informational events to promote groupwork research. I have also served as chair of several other professional counseling organizations' committees at the state and regional level. These experiences have provided ample opportunity to develop record-keeping and teamwork skills, which are required of the ASGW Secretary. In this role, I aim to leverage my excellent communication and organization abilities to support operation of all ASGW efforts with a collaborative nature and positive spirit. I look forward to promoting the practice of groupwork as a leader within this organization.

Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Sailume Walo-Roberts

As counselors, we are tasked with the immense responsibility of tending to the mental health and wellness of individuals and groups. But it is not enough to provide intrapsychic care without attending to those structural forces and systemic inequities that impact the lives of our clients and contribute to their sense of injury and disempowerment. I believe it is our collective responsibility to interrogate and dismantle these systems, forging new worlds where every person is able to realize their fullest potential. I believe we must work collaboratively with other stakeholders and leverage the privileges we have in this endeavor.

My advocacy work began twenty years ago volunteering at my local rape crisis center as a rape care advocate, working with sexual assault survivors to ensure that their rights were respected, and they were treated with the dignity and care they deserved. I was subsequently the community outreach educator, and then director of the center, partnering with state and local agencies, along with survivors to educate the public on prevention and other issues pertaining to sexual violence. Doing that work taught me the power of collaboration, voice and agency and continues to inform my counseling practices.

I teach as an adjunct faculty in NYU's counseling program and make it a priority each semester to address systemic inequities across the lifespan and our role in dismantling them.

As Advocacy Co-Chair, I helped create a resource directory for BIPOC and marginalized groups, facilitated monthly "I Need a Minute" gatherings for counselors, helped draft CSJ position statements on issues like the Israeli-Palestinian war, and provided trainings on working with refugees. We also led CSJ's Day of Service at Second Harvest Food Bank during ACA's New Orleans convention. As President-Elect, I plan to continue CSJ's strong advocacy and commitment to speaking truth to power.

Tina Onikoyi

I am deeply honored to be considered for the role of President-Elect of Counselors for Social Justice. I believe our counseling profession, advocacy and social justice are intimately intertwined. As a passionate advocate, activist, and healer, I am committed to advancing CSJ's mission of dismantling systemic barriers that impact marginalized communities. My background as a Licensed Professional Counselor, over 15 years of experience in the field and wellness consultant equips me with the tools to lead meaningful, transformative initiatives that align with CSJ's values. I hold a PhD in Clinical Psychology with a health psychology specialization, and as the Clinical Director and Founder of my group wellness practice Wellness Meets World, I've cultivated an empowering space dedicated to holistic healing, focusing on the mind-body-soul connection operating from an advocacy and culturally responsive framework.

Currently, I serve as the Co-Chair of the Advocacy Committee, where we have successfully organized various programming, written position statements on social issues impacting our members, while encouraging the infusion of advocacy in all aspects of CSJ's work. As the previous CSJ Professional Development Chair, I assisted

in reintroducing accessible continuing education opportunities and the creation of the Doctoral Internship Manual. These leadership roles have reinforced my commitment to building infrastructure that supports both professional and social development for our members.

As President-Elect, I will focus on amplifying the advocacy initiatives already being carried out on an individual level while collaborating with other organizations to broaden our collective impact. I plan to advance anti-racist and anti-oppressive initiatives that address institutional inequities while fostering sustainable partnerships that elevate marginalized voices. My transformational leadership style and team-player approach will help foster deeper connections within our organization and the broader community. It would be my utmost honor to build on our revolutionary legacy.

REPRESENTATIVE, RETIRED/LIMITED MEANS

Colette T. Dollarhide

As a former President of CSJ, I understand all the meaningful ways that the organization can serve members. As a retiree myself, I can be an effective voice for retirees and those with limited means who are often overlooked in social justice efforts. I have ideas for free workshops on social justice issues that would be relevant for retirees and for members with limited means and would be excited to serve in this capacity.

SCHOOL COUNSELING REPRESENTATIVE

Marsha Rutledge

As a counselor educator with years of experience in both higher education and school counseling, my work has consistently focused on supporting school counselors in their advocacy efforts, while promoting equitable outcomes for all students. My research addresses the systemic barriers that disproportionately impact underrepresented students, ensuring that school counselors are well-equipped to create culturally responsive and inclusive environments.

In my former role as the founding chair of the Antiracist Committee for the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), I have led initiatives that prioritize social justice and equity in education. This work is further reflected in my published articles and presentations at state and national conferences such as SACES and ACES, which center on culturally responsive and antiracist school counseling practices. Additionally, my involvement in the SCIN Professional Identity Workgroup highlights my dedication to fostering the professional growth of school counselors.

I am seeking the position of School Counseling Representative on the Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ) board to continue advocating for school counselors in diverse settings. I aim to amplify the voices of those working directly with students, ensuring that CSJ initiatives reflect the real-world challenges they face. With my experience and passion for social justice, I am confident I can effectively represent the concerns of school counselors and help drive meaningful change within the profession.

Anna Baird

I am an Assistant Professor at CSU Dominguez Hills in the School and College Counseling Department. I have a Masters of Counseling in Clinical Mental Health and a Doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision. I operate from a trauma-informed and social justice lens and utilize Feminist Theory for both my teaching pedagogy and counseling theory. I believe in creating a liberatory environment where my clients and students can feel safe enough to show up authentically in order to engage in transformational healing and learning. In my free time, I enjoy service and advocacy opportunities that allow me to use her privilege and voice to work toward positive changes in our society and on a global level. This includes advocating for mutual aid projects, attending and supporting protests and marches, and building up my support network. In the past I have served in a variety of positions on the board of multiple counseling organizations, including the Idaho Counseling Association, the Idaho Association for Marriage and Family Counselors, and Chi Sigma Iota- Phi Omicron Chi chapter. Because I am moving into the first stage of my career as a new faculty member, I am looking for ways to get involved in our profession at a larger scale. I want to serve in an organization that shares my values and advocates for important issues, both domestically and globally, and I feel that the mission of CSJ aligns with my own.

Temi Unonu

I am interested in holding the position of School Counseling Representative for CSJ because of my passion and interest in protecting and serving students and their families through equitable and just academic and social/emotional support. School Counseling provides students of diverse populations the opportunity to be guided through their academic challenges, aspirations and post-graduation pathways. Unfortunately, all too often school administration, policies and even other school staff can hinder these opportunities through unchecked biases and discriminatory practices. Black and brown students are among the most marginalized of these populations, where the intersection of faith, gender, sexual orientation, disability along with other factors can make them feel targeted or unseen. I have worked in every school setting from kindergarten, middle and high school, along with community colleges and four-year institutions. The common factor that I have observed is that it has been normed that School Counselors are aspiring to enact change in specific settings but are limited by the inflexibility or apathy of other school leadership or policies that have preceded the current climate and experiences of today's children or students. My desire is to bring awareness to these concerns, challenge practices and policies that no longer benefit marginalized populations, and advocate for school counselors to be provided the resources and professional development needed to change these circumstances. School Counselors are considered the "heartbeat" of our school systems. We have an obligation to our students to provide them with quality care and support so that they can perform at their best wherever they may land as a part of their communities. I believe as the CSJ School Counseling Representative I can support in making sure that we are striving to prepare school counselors and counseling educators to prioritize this invaluable work.

International Association of Addictions and Offender Counselors (IAAOC)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

LaVelle Hendricks

I have served the profession of addictive disorders for the last twenty-five years. It has been an honor as a university professor to teach the concepts of addiction, treatment and recovery. If given the opportunity to serve as president-elect, I would like to build on the concepts of advocacy and a commitment to meeting the needs of individuals struggling with addictions. As we collectively raise the profile of IAAOC, it centers on providing networking opportunities, collaboration among professionals, research and innovation, focus on cultural competence, support for counselors, maintain the standards of ethics, and raising public awareness regarding addiction and offender issues, aiming to reduce stigma and promote understanding.

My commitment to leadership is grounded in fostering an environment of membership engagement, creating channels of communication where members can share their concerns and ideas, ensuring their voices are heard. Collectively, we develop strategic goals that address current challenges in addiction and offender counseling.

SECRETARY

Reginald W. Holt

Dr. Reginald W. Holt is a tenured Associate Professor, Clinical Professional Counseling Program Coordinator, and Department Chair within the Department of Counselor Education and Family Therapy at Central Connecticut State University. He completed a PhD in counselor education at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (CACREP).

He is licensed as a professional counselor in Connecticut, Illinois, and Missouri and credentialed as a National Certified Counselor and Master Addictions Counselor through the National Board of Certified Counselors. In addition, Dr. Holt is recognized by the Connecticut Certification Board, Inc. as an Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor and by the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium as an Internationally Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor.

He is an active member of several national and state professional associations, which includes working directly with the 2020–2021 President of the American Counseling Association (ACA) on the ACA Graduate Student Committee, holding elected leadership positions as the 2023–2024 Secretary of the International Association of Addictions and Offender Counseling (IAAOC) and as the 2019–2020 President of the Connecticut Association of Counselor Education and Supervision (CACES), as well as co-leading the development of a special interest group in addictions counseling for the Connecticut Counseling Association (CCA) that received a “Best Innovative Practice” award from ACA in 2018.

Dr. Holt, along with Dr. Regina Moro, proudly released a counselor education textbook through Springer Publishing, *Counseling Individuals with Co-Occurring Addictive and Mental Disorders: A Comprehensive Approach* (2024), which was nominated for the 2024 National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) Research Innovations in Counseling Practice and Counselor Education Award.

International Association for Resilience and Trauma Counseling (IARTC)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Danielle Holly Johnson

I am deeply honored to be considered for the office of President of the International Association for Resilience and Trauma Counseling (IARTC). My qualifications for this role arise from a unique blend of academic, clinical, and leadership experiences that align with IARTC's mission of promoting trauma-informed perspectives globally.

As an Assistant Professor of Counseling, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, and Clinical Supervisor, I have dedicated my career to empowering underserved populations, with a focus on wellness-based, trauma-informed practice. My research explores the intersection of faith, culture, and trauma, such as safeguarding in faith-based environments and the traumatic impact of COVID-19 on global workers.

In 2023, I had the privilege of serving as Chair of the Graduate Committee, where I led initiatives that enhanced graduate student engagement and professional development, increasing participation and collaboration across diverse groups within the counseling profession. This role deepened my connection with IARTC members and reaffirmed my commitment to its goals. If elected as President, I would work to advance trauma-informed education and resilience-focused initiatives while fostering stronger collaboration across the counseling profession. Building on IARTC's strong foundation, I aim to promote both clinical and academic excellence, ensuring that our organization remains a supportive, inclusive space for all members. I am eager to continue my service and contribute to IARTC's future growth and success.

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, IARTC

Latoya Haynes-Thoby

Dr. Latoya Haynes-Thoby (PhD, Pennsylvania State University) is an assistant professor of counselor education at the University of Connecticut. Her work explores the benefits of culturally responsive trauma-informed counseling that promotes resilience and thriving, especially for marginalized children, adults, families, and communities. Using a critical lens, her research focuses on issues such as individual and community healing from trauma; trauma-informed counseling and supervision; and resilience; including the impact of trauma on career development across the lifespan. Dr. Haynes-Thoby is passionate about counselor training and the operationalization of practices that promote thriving after trauma. One of her most recent publications “‘It’s About Time That We Listened:’ Black Women’s Resilience in the Face of IPV” centers the experience of Black women survivors and was featured on www.phys.org. She also published *Foundations in Becoming a Professional Counselor: Advocacy, Social Justice, and Intersectionality* with Springer, a first-of-its-kind introduction to the counseling profession rooted in intersectionality.

Dr. Haynes-Thoby is excited about the collaborative opportunity to support the American Counseling Association, including the divisions and regions. Her commitment to advocacy, mentorship, and counselor development is evidenced through her scholarship, teaching, and service. She serves as a guest editor for *The Professional*

Counselor, an editorial board member for Teaching and Supervision in Counseling, ad-hoc reviewer for Counselor Education and Supervision, and she serves as a member of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) Foundation mental health advisory council.

She is a licensed professional counselor, approved clinical supervisor, certified clinical trauma professional, and vice president elect of American Educational Research Association (AERA) Division E. Dr. Haynes-Thoby would be honored to serve as an American Counseling Association Governing Council Representative for the International Association for Resilience and Trauma Counseling. She is eager to bring her commitment and service to the post.

Military and Government Counseling Association (MGCA)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Neil Duchac

It is an honor to be considered for the position of President of the Military and Government Counseling Association. I have been a member of this branch for several years and previously served on the board of directors. The Military and Government Counseling Association has an important job of advocating for Armed Services members, their families, and government employees at various levels, from local to state and federal governmental roles. Considering the significance of communication, outreach, advocacy, and support, I feel that I could do an excellent job providing leadership. Previously, I worked for the state of Ohio for 15 years in various positions. Additionally, I am a veteran of the United States Navy, having served as an electrician's mate aboard the USS America (CV-66). Much of my career outside of academia has focused on providing clinical services to veterans and their families.

SECRETARY

Necole Gonsahn

I am honored to submit my candidacy for the role of Secretary within our esteemed association. As a dedicated new professional with a deep commitment to supporting the well-being of our military and government personnel, I believe I am well-suited to contribute effectively in this capacity.

My background includes previous service in a component of the US Army Reserves. Through this time, I was able to develop a passion for military members and their families. I have homed in on this passion as a scholarly researcher, conference presenter, and graduate student. I believe this position will allow me the opportunity to continue to develop these skills on a broader scale. As a graduate assistant, graduate representative for the Lookout Counseling Association and Tennessee Mental Health Counseling Association, I have demonstrated skills necessary to effectively organize and plan events through successful communication.

Furthermore, I am committed to fostering a collaborative and supportive environment within our association. I understand that the role of Secretary goes beyond administrative duties; it involves serving as a reliable point of contact and a trusted source of support

for our members. I am dedicated to being responsive and approachable, ensuring that all members feel heard and valued.

If elected as Secretary, my priorities will include:

1. Ensuring accurate and timely recording of meeting minutes and decisions.
2. Streamlining communication and information dissemination to enhance member engagement.
3. Supporting the executive team in coordinating and organizing events and meetings.

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to our association's mission and to support the valuable work we do for our military and government personnel. Thank you for considering my candidacy. I look forward to the opportunity to serve you as Secretary and to work together to advance our collective goals.

GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Samantha Robertson

I am a 14-year veteran. I have worked for the Air Force, Army and Marine Corps as a sexual assault victim advocate.

I am currently a student in a Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. Additionally, I hold an M.A. in Psychology with a certification in Criminal Justice. The military and government agencies have always been my passion and focus.

DIRECTOR

Edward (Franc) Hudspeth

Military and Government Counseling Association's (MGCA) members I am seeking election as a Director for MGCA. I have been a member of the American Counseling Association (ACA) for over 23 years. I received my doctorate in Counselor Education & Supervision, from The University of Mississippi in 2009. I have been a Licensed Professional Counselor since 2004 and Registered Pharmacist since 1989.

Over the past decade, I have served in various ways several ACA divisions from state to regional to national levels. From treasurer to president-elect to president, I have served in whatever way I could be of use. Over the past nine years, I have had the opportunity to serve at the state and national levels for MGCA. I am currently Past-President of MGCA and Co-Editor of MGCA's Journal of Military and Government Counseling.

Because I know that at some point, as counselors and counselor educators, most will eventually work with or teach a service member, veteran, their family, and/or first responder, I believe that service to MGCA is a way to support the needs of the association as it strives to support the needs of counselors and counselor educators working with service members, veterans, their families, and first responders. As a Director, I aspire to help promote the organization as its leadership and members fulfill the mission of MGCA. I know that working with service members, veterans, their families, and first responders requires specific training, an awareness of military and first responder culture, and insight into the unique ethical challenges that may present when working with these individuals.

Tom Ayala

As a seasoned licensed professional counselor practicing rural mental health in Oregon, I am honored to submit my candidacy for the role of Director within the Military and Government Counseling Association (MGCA), a division of the American Counseling Association. My professional journey has been deeply influenced by a commitment to serve our nation's veterans and to elevate the standards of the counseling profession, both of which align with MGCA's mission to enhance the quality of counseling services provided to military personnel, veterans, and government employees.

With a focus on serving combat veterans in my office, I also am dedicated to the local VA Home skilled nursing facility, where I provide counseling services to some of the most vulnerable members of our veteran community. This experience has instilled in me a profound respect for the resilience of veterans and a dedication to advocating for their mental health needs. I believe that through leadership and collaboration, we can continue to advance the quality of care they receive.

As the recent recipient of the MGCA's Professional of the Year award, I am deeply grateful for the recognition of my work and even more inspired to give back to the organization that has been an integral part of my professional growth for many years. My experience serving on the Oregon licensing board for counselors and therapists, as well as my involvement with the National Board for Certified Counselors, has strengthened my belief in the importance of advocacy and professional development.

I am eager to contribute to the MGCA's ongoing initiatives, particularly in supporting the professional growth of counselors serving military populations and promoting innovative solutions to improve access and quality of care. Thank you for considering my candidacy to further the mission of this vital organization.

Edwin W. Gunberg

Ed Gunberg is an Associate Professor in the School of Professional Counseling at Lindsey Wilson College. He teaches courses in the master's program in Mental Health Counseling and the doctoral program in Counselor Education and Supervision. Before joining the academic world, he ran a private consulting firm in Northern Virginia for twenty-eight years. He served federal government customers in law enforcement and the intelligence communities, specializing in personality assessment and threat analysis. He has held various professional leadership positions, including President of the Kentucky Mental Health Counseling Association and member of the Board of Directors of the International Association for Psychology and Counseling.

Rodney Ho

I am honored and committed in advancing the counseling profession from a state to federal level. As a master's level practitioner (Physician Assistant) and as a LPC Associate, I understand the challenges of garnering autonomy and respect from doctoral level trained health practitioners. In the military health system, I have been a staunch advocate for professional counselors and was part of the Defense Health Agency credentialing board. I served as a subject matter expert in drafting the new LPC privileging list. I continue to advocate in hiring LPCs in the military health system and now there are several military bases who employ LPCs. However, the work is not done and there is much still to accomplish.

I have over 26 years of military service and served on several different levels of leadership in the military and civilian organizations. I been humbled with the opportunity to serve as president, vice-president, and board of directors on several non-profit organizations and association. The military has provided with several leadership training and experience, molding me into a proactive empathetic transformation leader who puts people first and always serving. I am a minority in that I have several ethnicities and have been all over the world and this has taught me the importance of cultural sensitivity. Serving on the Military Government Counseling Association Board of Directors will provide an avenue to relentlessly advocate for LPCs in the federal and military system!

Sarah Mossa

As a military counselor through MOS and Tricare I believe that I embody the role of advocate for our military service members and their dependents. I'm volunteering for the position as Director which works on subcommittees. As President of the Illinois Counseling Association and Immediate Past President, I have worked on numerous committees over the last four years including Finance Committee, Conference Committee, By-Laws Committee Meetings, and overall handling the daily operations of the State level organization. I assisted ACA MW region chair on the conference committee for ACA 2024 conference. I currently sit on IL IDFPR's ethics board. I believe my experiences are in alignment with the needs of this position, and I am happy to provide service.

Icey Davies-Clark

The advancement of mental health care for military personnel, veterans, and their families is critical to the well-being of our nation. As the spouse of a veteran and a dedicated public servant, I am honored to be nominated for the position of Director at the Military and Government Counseling Association (MGCA).

My goal as a Director is to further MGCA's mission by advocating for comprehensive mental health support and education within military and government communities.

I hold a Masters in Science Administration with a concentration in Health Services Administration and a Master of Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling specializing in Military and Veteran Counseling from the College of William & Mary. I am also a certified health and wellness coach. My professional work is rooted in a strong commitment to social justice, education, health, and wellness. As a Licensed Graduate Professional Counselor (LGPC) and National Board Certified Counselor (NCC), I am passionate about helping individuals navigate the complexities of life transitions. My expertise includes trauma and crisis intervention, with a specialized focus on military-involved populations. I am also deeply interested in areas such as loss, grief, and resilience.

I have worked extensively with local governments, serving transition-age youth and adults in educational, rehabilitative, and correctional environments. I believe education plays a pivotal role in providing effective guidance and counseling. My leadership experience includes managing teams of educators, case managers, and community organizations to support individuals and families during critical transitional phases. Driven by compassion and a commitment to service, I aim to uphold MGCA's objectives in partnership with the American Counseling Association (ACA), ensuring that those who serve and the underserved receive the care and support they deserve.

Sean Merchant

Sean has been a full-time counselor for under a year at a nonprofit in the Chicagoland area that has focused on assisting Veterans and their families. He retired last year from the Navy Reserves and prior active service in the Navy for a combined service of 24 years. Last year, Sean graduated with a master's in clinical mental health counseling. Sean has been in the helping services for over a decade as a case manager and program manager for a housing grant that assisted veterans and their families in finding and establishing stable housing in a challenging metropolitan housing landscape. He served on several Continuums of Care and committees advocating, networking, and assisting in addressing veteran homelessness. Sean served on the VA FHCC Lovell's Stakeholders Advisory Council and is serving on the Lake County Suicide Prevention Task Force.

Sean was raised in a military family, living in over half a dozen 'homes' and making friends throughout the U.S. and the world. While in the Navy, he was stationed in Hawaii. In the reserves, he was called up for active duty for over a year to support the historic withdrawal of troops in Iraq. During his reserves career, he served in two units in a senior enlisted role while volunteering to render over 550 military funerals as a reservist. As a prior volunteer as an MDA Camp Counselor for seven years, seeing many different cultures and being able to serve in the U.S. military has given Sean the perspective and passion to serve and to advocate for healing and the importance of growing MGCA's influence.

He volunteers in a premier community choir, providing inspiration and community through the choral arts. Sean served as a Chaplain for three years at his local American Legion and is active in his VFW post.

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, MGCA

Duane K. L. France

I appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve members of MGCA. As the current GC representative, I've had the privilege to participate in the most significant governance restructuring in ACA's history. I am eager to continue that work to ensure that the ACA continues to advocate for Counselors while also being good stewards of the resources members entrust to it.

I am also diligent in ensuring that the needs of the members of the military affiliated population and those who support them are always included in discussions at the highest levels of ACA. Dr. Christine Bhat, the President of ACA, has indicated that her primary presidential initiative is related to counseling children and youth. In discussions about this focus, I have urged the inclusion of military and first responder children and youth in this effort, given the unique stressors related to their family's life of service and sacrifice.

As a retired Army Noncommissioned Officer, combat veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan, and a clinical mental health counselor, I am acutely aware of the needs of many of the clients that members of MGCA serve. In addition to my clinical background, I also have extensive governance and organizational leadership experience. I hold an MBA in Public Administration and have served as the President of the Board for a nonprofit with an annual budget of over \$6 million dollars. In addition to my current role as Governing Council representative, I've also served as the Co-Chair of the Public Policy and Legislation Committee, a member of the Advisory Board that established the Counseling Compact, and currently serve as the Co-Director of an organization jointly funded by SAM-

HSA and the Department of Veterans Affairs that supports the development of mental health, wellness, and suicide prevention coalitions for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families.

Elizabeth Prosek

Hello, MGCA Members! My name is Elizabeth Prosek (PhD, LPC, NCC) and professionally I am an Associate Professor and Professor-in-Charge for Counselor Education at Penn State University. My nomination to serve MGCA as a Governing Council Representative is an intentional decision towards advocacy for the members of the division and populations for whom we collectively serve. In the role of MGCA Governing Council Representative, I aim to offer reasonable and relevant recommendations towards the functioning of ACA on behalf of the interests of MGCA members. My goal is to promote continued efforts of professional counselors in serving clients associated with MGCA. In the past, I have served MGCA as a director and led the task force for developing the exemplary practices for counseling military populations. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the members of MGCA in the Governing Council role, which allows for larger-scale systemic changes in policies that uplift professional counselors working with military and government-related clients.

Society for Sexual, Affectional, Intersex, and Gender Expansive Identities (SAIGE)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Clark D. Ausloos

As a queer counselor, educator, and researcher, my work has consistently centered on advocating for and supporting queer and trans youth, and their families. My passion lies in creating affirming, culturally responsive spaces where marginalized voices are uplifted and celebrated. From my early research on school counselors' competence in working with trans students to my ongoing scholarship on the mental health needs of queer and trans youth and families, I have remained committed to dismantling oppressive structures and advancing equity within the counseling profession.

In addition to serving in academic and clinical roles, I have authored multiple peer-reviewed articles and book chapters that directly address the unique challenges faced by queer and trans folks, with a focus on strength and celebration. My scholarship explores topics such as the harassment and discrimination experienced by trans youth, intersectional advocacy for queer refugee youth, and culturally responsive strategies for working with gender-expansive clients and their families. I have also worked extensively with families to provide education and tools that promote acceptance and support for their queer and trans children.

These efforts have led to recognition within the field, including awards for service and leadership from SAIGE, as well as invitations to present at numerous national and international conferences. As president-elect of SAIGE, I will continue to champion inclusive, affirming practices for queer and trans youth and families, fostering resilience and empowerment within these communities. My leadership is rooted in collaboration, visibility, and a deep-seated commitment to ensuring that mental health professionals are equipped to support queer and trans individuals and their families in all settings. I

am excited to bring my expertise, passion, and advocacy to this vital role within SAIGE, helping to further our collective mission of advancing social justice and affirming care for LGBTGEQIAP+ people.

GRADUATE STUDENT TRUSTEE

Amanda A. Cole

As a Queer graduate student pursuing a doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision, I am honored to be a candidate for the SAIGE Graduate Student Representative. My passion for the field, combined with my commitment to advocating for graduate students and LGBTGEQIAP+ clients, makes me a strong applicant for this role.

Throughout my academic journey, I have developed a deep understanding of the unique opportunities and challenges facing counseling students. I am committed to representing the diverse needs and perspectives of my peers, ensuring that their voices are heard. I believe that by fostering a supportive and inclusive community, we can empower future counselors to make meaningful impact in the lives of LGBTGEQIAP+ clients and the profession at-large. I am eager to collaborate with other graduate students from across the country to advance the SAIGE mission of belonging, equity, and liberation.

Having been a member of SAIGE since 2021 and SAIGE Ohio since 2018, I have seen firsthand the ways in which this organization provides graduate students with ample opportunities for advocacy, engagement, and mentorship. This not only promotes strong counselor identity development, but also has direct impact on client care throughout the country. I am a current Graduate Student Senator for my university and have held multiple leadership positions at the state level. I am confident in my ability to contribute to SAIGE's goals and am prepared to expand my reach to the national level. My counseling work has largely been dedicated to advancing clinical practice that promotes positive outcomes for gender expansive youth, especially within the context of family counseling. I am truly grateful to be part of the counseling profession. Being a graduate student has enriched my life in many ways and I want to give back to the field that has given me so much.

Rebecca L Sutter

I'm a 2nd year Clinical Mental Health Counseling student at Southern New Hampshire University (GPA >3.9) and have recently started my practicum at Enrichment Wellness, LLC in Rockville, Maryland. Personally, I identify as a Queer, Intersex woman, and at 57, technically qualify as a Queer Elder. I have a strong history of interest and engagement in the LGBTGEQIAP+ community, having volunteered over the years for the Trevor Project, HRC and the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, DC.

I am transitioning from a lengthy, successful career in IT, where I serve as the CTO of a large non-profit organization, to pursue my passion for providing mental health support for neglected and marginalized members of my community. My studies included courses on counseling families and sexuality issues, as well as CACREP-mandated diversity and ethics, which I hope to employ in my practice.

I would like to serve as the Graduate Counseling Representative for SAIGE in order to deepen my knowledge of issues affecting all LGBTGEQIAP+ individuals beyond my own identities, improve my efficacy as a counselor, offer my other skills and expertise to

advance the mission of SAIGE, to bring my perspective and experiences into leadership, and to be a visible advocate for both the rights and well-being of all members of the LGBTGEQIAP+ community.

After completing my internship, I plan to focus my residency on serving LGBTGEQIAP+ clients and become an LCPC. Serving as the Graduate Counseling Representative for SAIGE aligns perfectly with my professional goals and personal commitment to our community.

Iris Wilson-Farley

My name is Iris Wilson-Farley, and I am thrilled to have been nominated for the role of Graduate Student Representative on the Board of the Society for Sexual, Affectional, Intersex, and Gender Expansive Identities (SAIGE). I am currently a first-year graduate student seeking my Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Counseling is a new career path for me, after spending the last 33 years in customer service, project leadership, and human resources (HR) roles, including 22 years focused on career development, leadership coaching, and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. I am excited by the prospect of lending my life experience and organizational leadership skills in service to the work of SAIGE.

If elected to this role, it will not be my first volunteer leadership role. I have previously led committees at the local and national levels for an addiction-related nonprofit, and I currently volunteer as a leader in my church, focused on personnel matters and development of HR procedures. I have also served as the Vice President of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) for the Northeast Illinois Council of the Boy Scouts of America from 2022 through 2023. (I stepped away from that role to make time for my counseling education.)

My passion for the work of SAIGE is informed, in part, by my identities as a trans woman and a lesbian. I see involvement in SAIGE, and volunteering for a leadership position, as important ways to advocate for my LGBTQIA+ community in the counseling profession. For me personally, involvement in SAIGE represents an opportunity to engage with and learn from queer community members and allies about their work with clients and their experiences as counselors.

I am grateful and excited for this advocacy opportunity, and I sincerely appreciate your support.

TRUSTEE, MULTICULTURAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CONCERNS

Rebecca Goldberg

Dr. Rebecca Goldberg holds a Bachelor of Science with Honors in the Major degree in psychology from the Florida State University, Master of Education and Education Specialist degrees in clinical mental health counseling and couple/family therapy (CACREP-accredited) from the University of Florida, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in counselor education and supervision (CACREP-accredited) from the University of Florida. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Mississippi, a National Certified Counselor, a Certified Grief Counselor, and a Board Certified TeleMental Health specialist. Dr. Goldberg is an Associate Professor of counselor education (CACREP-accredited) at the Mississippi State University where she has worked as faculty for

15 years, she has a local private consultation and counseling practice specializing in LGBTGEQIAP+ communities, grief/loss, and couple/family and systemic issues, and she provides regional and statewide Continuing Education trainings for mental health professionals and paraprofessionals. She has the honor of being a Research Fellow at MSU's Social Science Research Center and her research interests include LGBTGEQIAP+ concerns, creative counseling approaches, gender issues, grief and loss, and couple/family relationships and community/environmental systems. In 2019, Dr. Goldberg was named the recipient of the Herb Handley Research Award by MSU's College of Education, and in 2022 she was given the Training and Mentorship Award by the International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors.

Lane Madsen

Lane Madsen is a therapist in South Dakota with the group practice, Rising Hope Counseling. Since graduating with her master's degree from the University of South Dakota in 2007, Ms. Madsen has worked in various counseling settings. She started her career working as an addiction counselor and mental health counselor in the corrections setting. She then transitioned to the school counseling setting and received her National Certification in School Counseling. In 2023, Ms. Madsen joined Rising Hope Counseling and became certified as an EMDR therapist while finishing her supervision for licensure. Ms. Madsen has remained active in counseling organizations and advisory programs throughout her counseling career. Ms. Madsen has been president of numerous local counseling chapters, including the South Dakota Mental Health Association, and the South Dakota Counseling Association.

Ms. Madsen has participated in various leadership training within the counseling program and through programs with the South Dakota Education Association. She has presented on leadership and diversity in South Dakota. Ms. Madsen is presenting on supervision in counseling education programs at the North Central Association for Counselor Education and Supervision. She is an active member of multiple counseling specialties, including the Society for Sexual, Affectional, Intersex, and Gender Expansive Identities. She is passionate about research and partnerships to increase inclusion relating to various aspects of individual identities, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and neurodiversity. Her passion is exemplified by her dissertation topic exploring broaching of LGBTQIAP+ topics during school counseling clinical courses.

Treye Rosenberger

I am honored to be nominated for the position of Trustee for Multicultural and Social Justice Concerns. As a gay person and someone with a disability, my personal experiences have deeply shaped my commitment to advocating for underrepresented populations. These identities have not only informed my research and practice but also fueled my passion for fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion in counseling.

As a professional counselor, I have had the privilege of providing direct services to the LGBTQIA+ community, with a focus on supporting transgender individuals through their transitions. This includes writing letters of support for those seeking hormone replacement therapy and surgical interventions. My work in this area centers on advocating for clients' rights, ensuring they receive affirming care, and helping them navigate their identities in a supportive environment.

My research has explored topics such as the experiences of LGBTQIA+ counselors, blood donation discrimination, and counseling individuals with disabilities. Publications like “Resilience Between Heterosexual and LGB Mental Health Counselors” and “Counseling Students’ Training Experiences in Supporting the Careers of Individuals with Disabilities” highlight my commitment to social justice. I have presented these findings at national conferences, including AERA and NCDA.

In my role as Department Chair of Counselor Education Programs at Grand View University, I have secured CACREP accreditation, developed inclusive curricula, and advocated at the Iowa State Capitol for increased support for public service professionals. My experience ensures I can bring a well-rounded approach to addressing the organization’s needs.

I am seeking this office to continue advocating for diverse populations and collaborate with professionals passionate about social justice. I believe I can bring the insight, dedication, and leadership needed to advance the mission of ACA and SAIGE.

Ashley Bentzel

My name is Ashley Bentzel. It is an honor and a privilege to be nominated by SAIGE as a candidate for Trustee of Multicultural and Social Justice Concerns. I am a licensed graduate professional counselor (LGPC) in Maryland, working at a private practice. I am also a doctoral student pursuing my Ed.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision at Shippensburg University of PA, approaching the dissertation phase of my studies, including literature on amplifying indigenous voices. In addition to my clinical and doctoral work, I have experience as a school counselor and continue to advocate for LGBTQIA+ individuals and BIPOC communities across various settings. I completed research writing a thesis on empowering BIPOC gender non-conforming youth, having conducted a workshop at Loyola University with Master’s students. I continue to share my passion for multicultural competencies and social justice concerns at conferences such as Chi Sigma Iota (CSI), North Atlantic Region Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (NARACES), and Pennsylvania Counseling Association (PCA) and continue to extend this knowledge to the field. Since 2023, I have served on the Counselors for Social Justice Membership Committee. I was also recently appointed to the Planning Committee for the Central Pennsylvania School Counselor Institute. As a pansexual, cisgender woman with a multicultural worldview, I have a personal and professional commitment to fostering equity in diverse spaces. SAIGE has felt like home to me, and my goal is to build upon the meaningful work that SAIGE has done to promote multiculturalism and social justice. I believe my extensive background working with LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities and my service on the Counselors for Social Justice Membership Committee will allow me to contribute meaningfully as a Trustee. I kindly request your vote for SAIGE as the Trustee of Multicultural and Social Justice Concerns. Thank you for your support.