Association for Adult Development and Aging (AADA)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Janelle L. Jones

My name is Janelle Lynn Jones, and I am honored to be nominated for the position of President-Elect for the Association for Adult Development and Aging. I am a doctoral candidate in the Counselor Education and Supervision program at the University of Alabama. I earned my master’s degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Georgia State University where I also obtained a graduate certificate in Gerontology. While attending the University of Alabama I have obtained a graduate certificate in Qualitative Research. I am conducting qualitative interviews for my dissertation to examine racial trauma experiences of Black older adults of the baby boomer generation.

I have been involved with the Association for Adult Development and Aging since 2017 when I joined the American Counseling Association as a master’s student. I currently serve on the AADA board as Member-at Large of membership. Previously, I volunteered on the Older Adult Task Force and Newsletter Committee. Additionally, I facilitated numerous webinars and professional development opportunities in my role as Professional Development Chair. In 2021 I was honored to receive Association for Adult Development and Aging Distinguished Service Award. Throughout the years, it has been my pleasure to learn alongside AADA members, while adding my own unique contributions to the organization. I plan to serve AADA for years to come and if elected as President-Elect, I will continue to uphold the mission of the organization through servant leadership and transformative advocacy.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE (OUTREACH)

Melanie Popiolek

Hello, my name is Melanie Popiolek, and I am a Professional Counselor/Supervisor and adjunct instructor from Metro Detroit. I am honored to be nominated for the Member-at-Large for Outreach position for AADA. Having spent the past two years in service to the AADA Board as a Parliamentarian and as a Bylaws Chair, I have been able to witness the deep level of commitment this division has not only to its members, but to the Counseling profession and its defining focus on development across the lifespan.

The culture of AADA is one of professionalism and comradery. If given the opportunity, I would love the chance as Member-at-Large for Outreach to communicate its mission of promoting professional standards and advocacy for counseling across the lifespan.
Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling (AARC)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Ching-Chen Chen

My name is Ching-Chen Chen and I am an Associate Professor of Counselor Education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. I am honored to be nominated to serve as President-Elect for the Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling (AARC), a community that welcomed me as an international faculty member 6 years ago and ultimately became my professional home in the United States. The inclusiveness of the AARC has been instrumental in my professional development, helping me draw upon my experience teaching and supervising Asian and American counselor trainees across multiple institutions in developing my research agenda focused on assessment, instrument development, and cross-cultural validation. For me, AARC has been a source of learning, inspiration, and professional and personal growth. By serving as AARC Secretary and ACES Emerging Leader, for instance, I was able to further hone my leadership skills, which I have used in efforts to advance assessment and research within the counseling profession as well as increase graduate students' and international scholars' involvement in AARC. My editorial board role at Measurement and Evaluation in Counseling and Development has been an additional source of opportunities to support graduate students, junior faculty, both domestic and international, in their efforts to improve their research approaches as well as disseminate findings. As President-Elect, I would devote myself to working with the AARC leadership team, supporting the mission of AARC, and helping more counselors and graduate students to find a home in AARC. In doing so, I would further contribute my cross-cultural perspectives, international counseling experiences, and clinical experience administering assessments to K–12 students, college students, adults, and clients presenting with substance use disorders in efforts to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in this strong community as well as promote growth of the association globally.

Ryan M. Cook

My name is Ryan Cook, PhD, LPC, ACS and I am an assistant professor of counselor education at The University of Alabama. I am honored to be nominated for President-Elect of the Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling (AARC). Being involved in AARC has been immensely beneficial to my own development as a scholar and counselor educator, and heightened my interest in research, assessment, and
evaluation. It was my pleasure to previously serve AARC as Secretary and a member of the Assessment Committee. I currently serve as a member of the editorial boards for Counseling Outcome Research and Evaluation and Measurement and Evaluation in Counseling and Development. I humbly believe that these collective service experiences have prepared me for the role of President-Elect. If elected, I am eager to work with the other members of the Executive Council, AARC membership, and interested stakeholders to further the AARC mission. As President-Elect, it would be my aim to ensure that the division continues to promote and advance research and evaluation practices in the field of counseling, while also exploring new avenues to fulfill the fundamental purposes of the division, to collaborate with other ACA divisions, and to engage with current and prospective members.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be considered for President-Elect of AARC.

TREASURER

Ye (Agnes) Luo

I view AARC as my professional home. I have been involved with the association since attending the 2017 AARC Annual Conference in Phenix, Arizona, as a first-year doctoral student. I was attracted by AARC’s focus on research and assessment and inspired by other prominent counseling researchers at the conference. Since then, I attended every AARC annual conference and presented 11 times. In 2019, I was honored to serve as an AARC Emerging Leader and completed a total of 50 hours of service. In the same period, I acted as a Member of the Awards Committee (2019–2021) and reviewed applications for the Exemplary Research and Practice Award. Additionally, I volunteered to assist with the website maintenance (2020–present) until the position of Web Master is filled. The highlight of my service to AARC is my role as the Co-Chair of the Social Media Committee (2019–present). Working with two other colleagues, we were able to fortify the virtual presence of AARC and enhance members’ interactions on social media sites (i.e., Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) through partnerships with the AARC Executive Board and other committees (e.g., DISJ, Public Policy). These activities demonstrate my ability to engage other AARC members, my organizational skills, and my strong devotion to service. I am meticulous, diligent, and reliable and I practice from the servant leadership model.

I hope to become a Treasurer for AARC because it enables me to assist with the financial strategies which are crucial to the development of AARC. Once elected, I would commit to fulfilling my duties promptly, cultivating a close relationship with ACA, and bringing perspectives from a place of diversity and advocacy to the Board. My strengths in organization and engagement, my attention to detail, as well as my passion to serve AARC make me a suitable candidate for the position.

Amanda Rumsey

I am honored to be on the election slate for AARC treasurer. I have been an active member of AARC for the past eight years and continue to appreciate the professional support and growth I have gained through relationships and experiences with AARC. I am a licensed professional counselor, a certified school counselor, and a nationally certified counselor currently in my 6th year as an Assistant Professor at Clemson University. I also have over 20 years of experience in counseling practice. I believe that
the strength, progress, and overall advancement of the counseling profession relies upon members' engagement with leadership, advocacy, and service.

I have enjoyed engagement in leadership, advocacy, and service, including being an AARC Emerging Leader in 2018, serving as an ACA representative on an APA project, an ACA mentor, the chair of the ACA research and knowledge committee, and currently, as a member of the ACA publications committee. I have reviewed conference and grant proposals for ACA, ACES, SACES, and ACAC and have presented over 30 times at division conferences. I currently serve as a reviewer for two ACA journals. While remaining active with ACA divisions, including ACES, SACES, ACAC, and IARTC, I am especially committed to dedicating service and building leadership with AARC.

I appreciate the value an organization can provide through financial stability. Investment in the members and practice related to assessment and research in counseling depends upon AARC’s attention to solid financial practices. The role of treasurer would be entirely new for me; however, I am open to learning, attentive to details, and would have the strength of the executive board and previous leaders to support me. I value the connections and support I have as a member of AARC and, if elected, would be honored to serve as treasurer of AARC.

MEMBER AT LARGE – PUBLICATIONS

Michelle Hollenbaugh

I am honored to be nominated for Member-at-Large for Publications for AARC. I have been a member of this division for over a decade and am so excited for the opportunity to serve the organization in this capacity. I recently served as chair of the AARC Specialty Standards and Statements Committee, and during my tenure we accomplished a great deal. First, we collaborated with the Association for Specialists in Group Work to successfully create the Standards for Assessment and Research in Group Work. Second, in response to the pandemic, we were tasked with developing Exemplary Practices for Online Research and Assessment, and this project is in the final stages of review. As a former executive editor of a peer-reviewed counseling journal, I am familiar with the unique needs that accompany high quality publications such as CORE and MECD. If elected, I will work to facilitate communication between the publisher and the division and help position the journals for future success and growth. I will also support the executive editors and the AARC Executive Committee and maintain the AARC purpose of promoting best practices in assessment and research in counseling.

Erika L. Schmit

My name is Erika L. Schmit and I am an Associate Professor at the University of Mississippi. As a member of AARC for over 8 years, I have witnessed the true importance of cultivating an identity built upon advancing the counseling field through research and publication. Now in my 8th year of academia, I wish to grow further into servant leadership through AARC Executive Council. I have been on the editorial board of five counseling journals and am a current associate editor for an international journal. I believe that my publication and journal experience will be an asset as the potential Member At Large-Publications. My plan as MAL- Publication is to continue to grow counseling readership through AARC’s two journals, Measurement and Evaluation in Counseling and Development (MECD) and Counseling Outcome Research and
Evaluation (CORE). One vision I have is to work with the editorial boards to meet the needs of the current readers, increase diverse readership, and aid in the research to practice gap. Not only do I believe that these two journals provide readers with some of the leading research in the field, I also think we are in a unique space to provide mentorship and education through the review process. Lastly, research in counseling as a practice-based field is critical and should be viewed as a form of advocacy. Given that MECD has a global presence and CORE is continuing in its growth, I would like to support the journals’ editorial boards in their advocacy efforts.

Association for Child and Adolescent Counseling (ACAC)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Hayley Stulmaker

Hello ACAC members. I feel honored to have the opportunity to serve in the President-Elect role. Having served on the ACAC board in many capacities, I feel excited to take on this new role and build upon what so many have worked towards. I am currently in private practice, and I have been working with children and adolescents for over 10 years. I want ACAC to be the division that all counselors who work with children and adolescents call home. I want to help support and give back to the clinicians who work directly with these clients and counselor educators who train the counselors to continue to make the world a better place for our future generations. My priorities in this position are to increase public policy advocacy to make counseling services accessible to ALL children and continue to evolve the organization to best meet our members’ needs. I am looking forward to the next few years.

MENTAL HEALTH TRUSTEE

Cameron Wiemerslage

I am seeking this office because I want an active role in not only protecting the integrity of our field, but advancing it as well. As a Trustee I will strive to be consistently accessible for all members so you have a voice in the process.

Elisa Gambill

My name is Elisa Gambill and I am a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor with supervisor designation in Ohio. I have five years experience working with children and adolescents. I am a 2021 graduate of the Association of Play Therapy Leadership Academy. I am also in my final year of my PhD for Counselor Education and Supervision from Lindsey Wilson College. I am passionate about mental health for youth and serving this population. I feel that with my passion and experience that working more within this organization will benefit the field, research projects, and education for other licensed professionals. Within this organization, I have been a grant reviewer and worked with the Ohio branch on giving CEU trainings and as a school based liasion. This opportunity would allow more growth professionally while also working towards a common goal within the association.
Rebecca Mathews

Greetings! I am Dr. Rebecca Mathews and am passionate about the work we do as counselors, especially with children and teenagers. I am a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor, Licensed Professional Counselor, and board-approved supervisor, and worked in the field for 16 years, primarily with youth in crisis and their families. I have sought to support fellow counselors doing this vital work through supervision and training, often presenting on crisis intervention, suicide prevention, counselor wellness and self-compassion, and creating safety for LGBTQ youth. As a faculty member at UNC Greensboro, I get to help train the next generation of counselors to be competent in working with children and teens.

I have been an active member of ACAC for many years. Last year, I was a presenter in the ACAC webinar series and discussed “Child and Teen Suicide: Building Skills, Resources, & Multicultural Awareness.” I have been a committee member, published in the newsletter, and received the Clinical Mental Health Counselor Advocate Award last year.

The work we do is essential. In these uncertain times, communities are looking for help in guiding youth to safety and wellness. As counselors, we are uniquely trained to speak up and advocate for practices that support resilience and growth. ACAC has been a resource for counselors that provides training, connection, advocacy, and support. I hope to be a part of their continued efforts to increase access to resources for counselors and the community as a Mental Health Trustee.

Maggie Parker

My name is Maggie Parker and I am a LPC and supervisor in Virginia. I began my LPC-S journey in Texas where I provided play therapy and expressive arts counseling in preschools, elementary and high schools and community based clinics. When I moved to Mississippi I spent time in intensive outpatient settings and private practice, though I grew the most in my time at a juvenile detention center. My time spent with incarcerated girls and boys began my journey towards understanding the impacts of adverse childhood experiences and the importance of school-based mental health care. I now live in Virginia and provide play based services to children and supervise school counselors in elementary, middle, and high school students. I am excited about the possibility of further serving children and students through my role as trustee for the Association for Child and Adolescent Counseling.

SCHOOL COUNSELING TRUSTEE

Hibbah Agha

I have been a school counselor for 7 years as maintain that school counseling is a major part of my identity. Although I worked in two contrasting environments in that time, I loved the challenges and community from each. I am currently 2 years into my doctoral program for Counselor Education and Supervision. Due to academic responsibilities, I had to step away from the profession to make the time commitment for my academic journey. I am now using my experience and knowledge to bring school counseling to master’s students, co-teaching and taking on the role of adjunct professor. As a female of color, I am passionate about advocating for those that require more of a voice. In my research, I have focused on barriers to the Asian American population, and now, want to use advocacy to support those working in the school counseling role. It is an identity I will carry with me into the future and I want to keep school counseling with me, no matter the shape it takes.
Diane Reese
Candidate information not available.

American College Counseling Association (ACCA)
PRESIDENT-ELECT

Makini Austin
It is an honor to introduce myself! My name is Makini, which means strong character and that is what I will embody and endeavor to bring to ACCA. In my primary professional role I have the honor of leading a dynamic team of healthcare professionals as the Wellness Center Director at Agnes Scott College. Additionally, I teach in the counseling program at Mercer University and I am a counselor supervisor.

Being a counselor is a salient aspect of my identity and I value the role I play in the evolution of our field and the development of the next generation of clinicians. So having colleagues nominate me to serve as President-Elect for ACCA is an opportunity that fills me with gratitude. I believe that serving in leadership positions within organizations that are integral in shaping our professions is a necessary part of the work. Thank you for your support and consideration.

Amy Broadwater
I am grateful and humbled to be nominated for the ACCA President-Elect position by esteemed colleagues whom I respect, value, and trust. All of my professional work as a mental health clinician has been as a college counselor within university settings. I am currently an assistant professor of counseling at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and most recently served as consultant, supervisor, and LGBTQ+ group facilitator at our campus counseling center. I consider the role of college counselor a large part of my professional identity and have presented nationally on suicide programs, supervision, microaggressions, and campus climates.

At my first ACCA conference, I connected with other professionals, who have since become treasured friends/colleagues. I found my professional home. The next year, I was awarded an Emerging Leader Grant and then elected to the board as a Member-at-Large for Graduate Students/New Professionals. I have enjoyed supporting emerging leaders into service within our organization as well as welcoming graduate students/new professionals into ACCA as a professional home, in much the same way I was welcomed.

Our changing/complex world continues to shift the landscape of college counseling in terms of the clients we serve, the issues affecting them, and the very role of college counselors, and counselors-in-training. This has intensified the need for college counselors to communicate, connect, and collaborate. I believe in the transformative power of college counseling and that ACCA is a strong professional anchor point that can help connect us in our efforts as we endeavor to navigate our own roles/needs, and continue to advocate for our students, as well as provide equitable, inclusive, and diverse services and work environments. As a college counselor, assistant professor, and member of the LGBTQ+ community, it would be an indelible honor and privilege to serve this wonderful organization in the role of President-Elect.
**TREASURER**

**Gregory Bohner**

I am excited to throw my hat in the ring again for the role of ACCA Treasurer. I previously served on the ACCA Executive Council for a total of six years, three as Member-at-Large (2014–2017) and three as Treasurer (2017–2019, 2020–2021).

During those six years, ACCA experienced many ups and downs but always pushed forward with hard work from amazing people. Because of this, I understand what is required to serve on the board, particularly as the Treasurer. The relationships and communication needed to smoothly process the business of the division are familiar and this will benefit the organization as I will not require any onboarding.

As I enter my 12th year of being a part of ACCA, I look forward to continuing my service to this wonderful group and seeing the amazing work that is performed. I appreciate your vote for me to be your ACCA Treasurer for the next two years.

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**MEMBER-AT-LARGE – GRADUATE STUDENTS AND NEW PROFESSIONALS**

**Samantha Simon**

I have served as the Co-Chair for ACCA’s Graduate Student/New Professional Committee for two terms, working alongside two different members at large. The main goal I have for this committee is to increase awareness and membership so that it can become a supportive space for graduate students and new professionals in college counseling. I have experience working in college counseling and did so while I was a new professional and graduate student in a doctoral program. I am passionate about advocating for graduate students and new professionals because their needs oftentimes get overlooked. I am now an Assistant Professor in Counselor Education at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke where I mentor graduate students going into the counseling field, gathering insight on what their needs are. My main research focus is on entry-level counselor wellness. I believe that my research interest, dedication to advocacy, and experience working as a college and mental health counselor will enrich conversations within ACCA to include graduate student and new professional voices.

**Alex Lehning**

Currently, I am a graduate student in Counseling at Northern Vermont University (formerly Johnson State University). I have prior experience with service and advocacy as a member of several non-profit boards here in Vermont/New England and am pursuing a concentration in college and clinical mental health counseling as part of my MA program. Outside of my work at a nonprofit focused on professional/workforce development in mental health, I am a reader/writing, hiker, and hospice volunteer. I am applying for this position because of my commitment to the impact of higher education as a first-gen student, my current experience as a graduate student and emerging mental health professional, and my desire to grow personally and professionally. I am especially concerned about the wellbeing of new professionals in an overburdened system.
Cassie Storlie

Over the past 12 years, ACES been instrumental in my professional development, and I have served ACES and our members in multiple capacities. Most recently, I served as the ACES Secretary (2021–2022), Chair of ACES Bylaws Committee (2020–2021), and currently as the co-chair the ACES Strategic Planning Committee (2020–2023). As a Latina, I am focused on the ways ACES can continue to support those from marginalized backgrounds in the core areas of counseling, supervision, research, teaching, leadership & advocacy. Much of my counseling related research is connected to working with diverse groups and individuals on their career and leadership development. I believe we can continuously improve and build ACES to be an optimally inclusive association that provides a sense of belonging to all.

As ACES president-elect, I commit to providing a collaborative atmosphere that is attentive to all voices. In addition, I will strive to advance the education and mentorship of future leaders within the counseling profession. I commit to serving in a manner that fosters open communication and intentional dialogue with authentic leadership style. No doubt - conversations impacting counselor education and supervision can be challenging, but they are fundamental in moving ACES forward in professional advocacy.

My past experiences as NCACES President (2018–2019) and Secretary (2015–2016), in addition to chairing ACES Advocacy Interest Network (2013–2017), will provide a historical/institutional perspective which will propel ACES forward as a community that honors diversity, equity, and inclusion. I look forward to strengthening and expanding options for the future leaders and advocates within our profession and strengthening the alliances among other counseling organizations that share our strong value of professional identity.

Leah Brew

I am Leah Brew and am running for President-elect of ACES. I am Professor and Chair in the CHMC CACREP accredited Department of Counseling at California State University, Fullerton. I am an LPCC in CA and am CCMHC and NCC certified.

When I first graduated with my doctorate, I became the Graduate Student Member of ACES. I was fortunate enough to sit with a group of Board members who listened to my recommendations and vision. I had a sense of agency and realized that I could make a difference in our profession. This experience was the seed that grew into my passion for creating change through service.

Shortly thereafter, I served as Secretary and then President of WACES, and concurrently worked with an organization to lobby for counselor licensure in California. Once the bill passed in 2009, we started a new state organization where I was the second President.

Subsequently, I was appointed by the Governor as the LPCC representative on our state licensure board.

After completing the Academics for Black Lives training for the last three summers, I had a vision for ACES: to improve diversity awareness, inclusivity, and liberation. I am hopeful that we can dismantle anti-Black racism, heterosexism and other -isms. I seek meaning-
ful change to disrupt, if not dismantle white supremacy culture (as described by Tema Okun). I want to work as a community to follow in the footsteps of our current and Past Presidents to facilitate this change.

I have wanted to serve as ACES President for over 20 years, and now the timing is optimal for me. My daughter is mature, I am resigning my role as Department Chair, and I believe counselor licensure is well-protected in CA. I have the passion, time, and ability to pursue this long-held dream. Thank you.

SECRETARY-ELECT

Brandee Appling

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Counseling and Human Development Services at The University of Georgia. Currently, I serve as the ACES Diversity Scholarship Co-chair which is a role I have held for the last two years. Previously, I served my region as SACES newsletter co-chair for three years as well as held the position of Secretary for the SACES Executive Board. In my role as SACES secretary, I served the board, organization, and members by committing my time and voice to the position while helping to facilitate discussion centered on the current goals of SACES and needs of the members. After serving SACES in this role I have continued to feel the desire to continue to engage in service to the profession and my colleagues, therefore, I would like to do this in the role of Secretary-elect of ACES. If selected, it is through commitment, organization, and attention to detail that I will ensure timely accuracy in my recording and delivery of information to help keep the ACES members informed and engaged. It is also my hope that I will be able to maintain a voice and be an active participant in the ongoing initiatives set forth by the ACES governing council and executive committee to further enhance the development of professional counselors and advancing the counseling profession. As Secretary-elect I would look forward to enhancing collaboration and carrying out any additional assignments put forth by the ACES President or Governing Council to promote the current strategic plan.

Harvey Charles Peters

As a professional counselor, educator, and researcher, I believe in the importance of service and leadership. To date, I have had the opportunity and privilege to serve ACES in multiple capacities. At the national level, I have served on the ACES board as the Graduate Student Representative and various committees and task forces, such as the Social Justice and Human Rights Committee chair and a member of the leadership task force. At the regional level, I have served on the NARACES board as well as multiple committees. Although ACES and its five regions (i.e., NARACES, NCACES, RMACES, SACES, WACES) have been a significant focus of my service and leadership development, I have also been involved in other organizations, such as the ACA, CSI, CSJ, HCA, and SAIGE.

My experiences across counseling organizations coupled with my scholarship exploring counseling leadership have shaped who I am as a leader, particularly my commitment to the six pillars of leadership (i.e., community, counseling, scholarship, service, supervision, teaching). Collectively, they have afforded me the opportunity to develop a range of knowledge concerning the historical and future movement of the organization. With that, I have gained insight into each region’s unique and overlapping needs—for example, the budget, distinct culture, and conference process.
If selected to serve as the next ACES secretary, I am committed to ethical practice, relationships, anti-oppression and anti-racism, and meeting each of the identified roles and responsibilities. I believe my passion and dedication to supporting the future of ACES, its members, and those we seek to serve will guide my service to the counseling profession. Together, we can strive for a more relationally attuned and socially just world.

**GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**Claudia Mai Nguyen**

Throughout my time in the professional counseling field, I’ve been honored to serve the professional counseling community in various roles. As a graduate student, I’ve had the privilege of engaging with ACES as well as many other regions (i.e., NARACES, NCACES, RMACES, and SACES) over the course of my service and professional development. Along with my involvement in ACES, I’ve had the opportunity to work with ACA, VCA, CSI AMCD, AHC and the NBCC foundation.

In addition to holding various servant leadership roles within the counseling profession, I have also been elected by my peers to serve as a student representative on my institution’s DEI committee with the responsibility to amplify the voices and experiences of students and alumni in all matters related to equity and social justice. In this role, I’ve refined my leadership and advocacy skills, specifically enhancing my ability to navigate group organizations and larger institutions in order to create collective action and systemic change.

My cumulative experiences—in servant leadership roles, as an active member within professional counseling organizations, and tenure as a graduate student representative for an R1 institution—all inform my overarching aim to intentionally create equally accessible opportunities and spaces for connection and growth.

If selected as to serve as the next ACES Graduate Student Representative, I would continue the work of advocating for the advancement and development of counselor education and supervision on behalf of graduate students as the emerging leaders and future of our profession. In order to accomplish this foundational aim, I would continuously commit my robust organizational skills, past experiences of leadership and my natural trait to be proactive in working toward the goal of promoting anti-oppression and anti-racism within our field while attending to the holistic well-being of my colleagues and the greater counseling profession.

**Shontell White**

Hello! My name is Shontell White and I’m running for the ACES graduate student representative position. I’m currently a student in the Counselor Education and Supervision Ph.D. program at William and Mary. I’m interested in this position because of the organization’s forward movement towards promoting equity in counseling and its commitment to amplifying marginalized perspectives in counselor education. As a second-year doctoral program student, my awareness of the major issues facing our field has amplified. I feel equipped to respond through advocating for the counseling and supervision needs of counselors and graduate students from all counseling settings.

As a former school counselor, I am especially interested in ensuring the voices of counselor educators and graduate students with school counseling identities are not
just heard but are intentionally received as a vital part of the larger counseling body. My experiences so far have shown me that at times, this population can feel distanced, and its contributions minimized. Accordingly, my research interests include school counseling, exploring protective factors influencing the educational resilience of Black adolescent girls and understanding the transition to post-secondary life for Black adolescent girls.

My doctoral journey has presented opportunities for me to serve on several research teams and as a teaching assistant for several inperson and online courses at William and Mary and the University of Virginia. As a teaching assistant I have lectured to students, facilitated group discussions, and participated in grading semester assignments.

Thank you for considering me for the ACES graduate student representative. If selected for this position, I will be committed to centering voices from marginalized communities and ensuring that graduate student perspectives are heard.

Association for Humanistic Counseling (AHC)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Caroline Perjessy
Candidate information not available.

SECRETARY

Ajitha Chandrika Prasanna Kumaran

I am Ajitha Chandrika Prasanna Kumaran an Assistant professional track faculty in the counseling department at the Texas A and M University-Commerce. I resonate and practice humanistic theories in counseling and educational settings. Working as an educator and counselor, I emphasis on relational teaching philosophy and humanistic counseling approach with clients.

I was actively present with the Texas Association for Humanistic Education and Development (TAHEAD) from 2015 until 2019. I served as a secretary for TAHEAD for two years; I was keeping meeting minutes and scheduling board meetings. I was the emerging leader with Association for Humanistic Counseling (AHC) from 2020–21; Dr.Scholl was my mentor.

I am grateful for this opportunity to serve as a secretary for AHC. I will be actively involved in attending and being part of the AHC board meetings and conferences. I will be recording the meeting minutes and collaborating with other board members to better serve the community and the members. I am curious about learning about Newsletters, Webinars, and organizing conferences. I have an experience of being a reviewer for SACES conference proposals that could aid to my abilities.

I am motivated to serve in leadership positions at the national level as a budding professional, and expand my network and knowledge. I believe Association for Humanistic Counseling will be the best platform for me as I preach, practice, and involve myself in humanistic counseling strategies and platforms.
Christy McAllister

I am a humanistic counselor at my core and feel passionate about supporting individuals, students, and communities to reach their full potential. The humanistic values of empathy, holism, and growth are authentic to who I am, both personally and professionally. Whether I am counseling clients, teaching students, or engaging in professional leadership, I ensure that humanistic principles are kept at the forefront.

My past professional experiences include serving as the: Vice President of the Eta Chapter Chi Sigma Iota chapter, Co-Chair for the resource development committee for the Ohio Association for Resiliency and Trauma Counseling, and Events Chair for the Eastern Ohio Counseling Association. I was also a 2019 NBCC Minority Fellow and since then, I have dedicated services to the LGBTQ+ population. As a humanistic counselor and leader, I value advocating for underserved and marginalized populations and will integrate this into my leadership.

Throughout my career, I have found myself drawn to AHC. I have served as the ACEP Coordinator, served as co-chair and committee member for various task forces, and presented at the virtual AHC conference in 2021. I believe that my experience as ACEP coordinator has prepared me for the role of secretary as I have learned valuable leadership skills.

As AHC secretary, I will strive to utilize my skills of effective record-keeping, communication, and creativity to serve the executive council and our members. My goals are to promote and support our organization by strengthening our AHC community; advocating for the importance of humanistic principles in our profession; and expanding our resources (i.e., webinars, emerging leaders program, etc.) through outreach and advocacy. It would be an honor to serve as secretary of an organization that exhibits all things humanism.

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, AHC

Amanda M. Evans

It is an honor to be considered to serve as the AHC representative on the ACA Governing Council. As the immediate Past-President for AHC, I have spent my career serving the division in a variety of roles including: InfoChange Newsletter Editor; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee Co-Chair; Chair of the Emerging Leaders Program; JHC reviewer; and as a member of numerous taskforces and committees. During my year as President, I worked to ensure we were a productive and fiscally healthy division. Our in-person conference was one our largest ever and focused on humanism, equity, authenticity, and liberation. Having knowledge of AHC’s history and current structure has equipped me to serve AHC as the Governing Council Representative.

In alignment with the ACA strategic plan and mission, I value the professional development of counselors, advocacy for the profession, and inclusive and ethical counseling approaches to serving clients. As a researcher, I have spent my career examining systems of oppression. This work has primarily focused on discrimination, as a form of trauma, that perpetuates health disparities and mental health symptomology. Oftentimes my research outcomes suggest humanistic-informed intervention. In addition to my service to AHC, I have served ACA in various capacities, including the Ethics Committee; Graduate Student Committee; Human Rights Committee; and Antiracism Taskforce. I am fully aware of the expectations and commitment needed from leaders
to effectively contribute to governance by representing the voices and interests of their members.

Leveraging these experiences places me in a solid position to serve AHC in meaningful ways as the Governing Council Representative. I will work tirelessly to advocate for our profession, increase opportunities for counselors, and promote inclusive, humanistic, and affirming spaces for all counselors and clients. Thank you for considering me to serve in this important role.

Joel Givens

As a humanistic counselor and educator, I embrace the wonder, mystery, and complexity of the human experience both within and beyond the context of counseling. I have proudly served AHC since 2014 as President of the division, an executive board member, an editorial board member, a webinar presenter, and a member of the Committee of Mission and Values. I also initiated the AHC Fireside Chats, which is an open forum for AHC members to discuss topics in humanistic counseling. As President, I worked with other division leaders to redesign the AHC logo and website. I also developed partnerships with other humanistic organizations including the RMHCPA. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, I maintained strong communication with AHC members during a frightening time. I kept members in the loop regarding the cancelled AHC conference. I also offered opportunities for members to remain connected in the quarantined, masked, and zoom-based phase of our human history. I am well acquainted with the less glamorous aspects of leadership and the administrative tasks that maintain the division. As the Governing Council representative, I will advocate for the interests of the division within the larger counseling profession. I will support a perspective of the person as “Thou” and irreducible in a profession that risks approaching the client as an “It” composed of neurological structures and diagnostic labels. As the representative, I will also communicate ACA initiatives to the AHC executive board. I will work to implement ACA’s Strategic Plan to dismantle systems of oppression, support counselors with resources, and increase recognition of counselors. I am a passionate, transparent, and personable leader who appreciates opportunities to grow our division. Given my zeal for the diversity of the human experience, I am also a critical leader who will challenge the medicalization of the profession.

Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Jung (June) H. Hyun

Hello, AMCD community. I am honored to be nominated for the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD) President-Elect. Born and raised in Korea, I am a cisgender female, first-generation immigrant Asian American. This is my 14th year teaching and training in counseling programs. I served as a Vice President of Asian American Pacific Islander concerns for over three years in the AMCD in addition to various leadership roles in higher education, such as the Department Chair, Director of Clinical Training, and on the Faculty Diversity Committee. Currently, I am a board of trustees for the ACA Foundation, work for the JMCD review board, and support the AMCD as a membership chair.
AMCD has played a critical role in my professional identity development. AMCD is the first professional organization that welcomed me with open arms and has been an anchor for my professional identity and development. AMCD teaches me to carry humility, demonstrate sincere empathy, and take steps for social justice with a deeper understanding of systemic injustice.

Now it’s time for me to pay it forward. A counselor’s journey is not easy and needs support. As AMCD President-elect, I would like to lead AMCD to become a safe place for those on their professional journey. Building upon AMCD’s legacy, I’d like to help AMCD grow to embrace itself and others. I strive to be a leader that reflects on oneself, prioritizes the community’s voices, empowers the community through self-determination, and pursues systemic healing.

AMCD cannot stand alone without your support and engagement. I am honored and humbled to walk alongside YOUR journey. I trust that AMCD can be a place for those who need the community to be healed and empowered. Please join me in the endeavor to guide future generations of counseling professionals.

I appreciate your consideration.

Ann Shillingford

Please accept this letter as my official statement of interest as a candidate for AMCD’s President-Elect. I have been a member of AMCD for many years and have been privileged to observe the organization’s growth toward becoming THE leading force in promoting multiculturalism in counseling.

I am a black, female, immigrant!

I understand the struggles and successes that come with learning to navigate new cultures, norms, and expectations. I have survived and will continue to thrive. I know that I did not do this alone. I had a village, and they are still with me. These are relationships I have developed along the way through personal and professional mentoring. As AMCD president, I would like to continue to build on mentoring relationships for students, faculty, practitioners, and researchers. I hope to promote mentoring relationships across national and international counseling platforms. Further, my hope is that through these international mentoring connections, AMCD can develop a platform for understanding counseling practice from global perspectives and promoting more internationally-focused research among counselors in the U.S.

VICE PRESIDENT OF LATINX CONCERNS

Camila A. Pulgar

¡Hola! Mi nombre es Camila Angelica Pulgar Guzman | Hi, My name is Camila Angelica Pulgar Guzman. I am an immigrant from Santiago de Chile and I have lived in North Carolina for almost 20 years. I am closely familiar with the experiences of acculturation, discrimination, and social isolation that our Latinx community faces. If selected as your VP for Latinx Concerns, I am envisioning three years of connection, training, and celebration of the uniqueness of the Latinx experience as immigrants, nonimmigrants, students, providers, and beyond.

My dedication to the Latinx community is evidenced in my many professional roles. I am a suicide prevention researcher, clinical mental health therapist (LMCHC), site supervisor...
at Wake University Forest School of Medicine in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, and business owner of Salud Mental Health, where I provide mental health-related materials and resources to our local Latinx community in North Carolina. I earned my PhD in Counseling and Counselor Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

I have served in the AMCD roles of 2020–2021 AMCD Graduate Student Representative and the Awards Committee Chair (2021 present). What I most love about serving in AMCD is our sense of community and passion for advocacy in the counseling field to ensure that everyone feels heard and welcomed while recognizing and honoring our unique culture and experiences.

I am energized by the power of numbers; together we can do more, we can create more access, and we can generate resources for our community. With guidance from past leaders, we will create training and resources on best practices for supporting the mental health experiences of the Latinx community, as well as create a space for support and compañerismo for those who identify as Latinx counseling students, providers, educators, supervisors, and their allies.

Kirsis A. Dipre

Hello!

I am Dr. Kirsis A. Dipre, and I am honored to be nominated for VP of Latinx Concerns. I am a core faculty in the Counseling@Northwestern program at The Family Institute at Northwestern University. I have been actively involved with the Latinx Concerns group since 2018. My involvement with the Latinx Concerns group has been pivotal in my personal and professional development as a counselor educator, as I use the mission of AMCD to guide my work. I have had the opportunity to serve AMCD as the 2021–2022 Mentorship Chair and a committee member for the Writer’s Consortium. I have also collaborated with the current VP of Latinx Concerns to develop and facilitate a webinar highlighting the racial tensions within the Latinx community to assist counselors in strengthening their multicultural awareness.

As someone who has been inspired by and benefitted from the work of the AMCD leaders, particularly the work within the Latinx Concerns group, I am delighted at the prospect of contributing “mi granito de arena” to support Latinx counselors, counselor educators, and allies.

If elected as VP of Latinx Concerns, I will be committed to accomplishing the following:

1. Restore and sustain the mentorship network between graduate students and professionals.

2. Increase the presence and visibility of the Latinx Concerns group within the ACA umbrella to expand our network and reach, considering the growing number of Latinx-identifying graduate students and professionals.

3. Collaborate in developing a series of workshops/webinars with other AMCD/ACA subgroups to center the intersectional identities of Latinx counselors and clients.

4. Facilitate regular membership meetings to promote community building, strengthen support networks, and discuss current events affecting counselors and clients across the ethnic Latinx label.

I appreciate your consideration, and I hope to have your support!
Ashlei Petion

It is with immense gratitude that I accept the nomination to serve as the 2023–2026 AMCD VP for Women's Concerns. Having been an active member of AMCD for the past 7 years, I am honored and excited for this potential opportunity.

I've served in various leadership roles with an intentional effort to create change for professional counselors in multiple different arenas: (1) Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD) Graduate Student Representative (2018–2019); (2) AMCD Graduate Student Representative Fellow (2019–2020); and most recently (3) Student Representative to the ACA Governing Council (2021–2023). Through these experiences, I have enthusiastically served AMCD and ACA members at local, state, and national levels while carefully navigating challenging topics, circumstances, and decisions alongside professional and student members.

One theme that has remained central to my leadership and advocacy is my commitment to multiculturalism and social justice as it relates not only to our constituents (i.e., clients, families, and communities), but also as it relates to our role and development as women. It is crucial to elect a VP for Women’s Concerns who: (a) has substantial leadership experience working with governing councils; and (b) has a track record of advocating alongside other professionals for women's issues. My experience with AMCD and ACA executive boards as well as multiple women-focused clinical experiences, publications, and professional relationships all serve as the foundation upon which I will serve.

If elected, my charges will be: (1) continue hosting writing groups and workshops established by previous leadership to promote the professional development and advancement of AMCD’s women members; (2) implement strategies to foster inter-collaboration with other AMCD groups and initiatives such as the other Concerns groups, Mentoring Program, Writer’s Consortium, and the Graduate Student group; and (3) provide affinity spaces for AMCD’s women members to convene, connect, and uplift one another.

Tonja Lee-Simmons

Candidate information not available.

Chantrelle D. Varnado-Johnson

Chantrelle D. Varnado-Johnson, PhD, LPC-S, RPT, BC-TMH, NCC is an assistant professor of counseling at Nicholls State University and serves as the school counseling specialization coordinator for the Department of Psychology, Counseling, and Family Studies. As a proud product of the AMCD Mentoring Program, Dr. Varnado-Johnson is seeking the office of Vice-President. The focus of this office combines her passion for counseling, teaching, and mentoring BIPOC female identifying graduate students. Her research centers around career development in K–12 settings, culturally responsive practices in supervision, mentorship with BIPOC graduate students, infusing antiracist and social justice practices in preparing school counseling trainees to work with all, and integrating expressive arts into the treatment of transgenerational trauma among socially ascribed groups and communities. Prior to earning her doctoral degree in counselor education, Dr. Varnado-Johnson conducted individual and group work in outpatient and inpatient services. She also provided clinical mental health to children, adolescents, and adults with a wide range of issues, crisis intervention, and collaborated in school and private
practice. Prior experience with AMCD includes serving on the 2021–2022 AMCD Mentoring Program Committee, 2021–2022 AMCD Awards Committee, and served as an AMCD Conference Volunteer multiple conference years.

CO-VICE PRESIDENT - NATIVE AMERICAN CONCERNS

Nicola Meade

I have held a leadership position within NAC since 2018, and became one of the emergency stand in co-VP in 2020.

Roni K. White

Native American Concerns group is in an ever-growing state. The ethnicities the group supports are vast and diverse, it takes planning, organization, and flexibility to continually develop this group to be useful and impactful in the field of counseling. My philosophical desire to strive for liberation and justice in counseling drives the vision to support NAC’s growth and reach. Continually being immersed in advocacy affords the abilities to ever expand and promote awareness to practitioners, effectively communicate with policy makers, and humbly engage with Native communities to advance culturally skilled practices in mental wellness. As a co-VP for NAC, I will continually utilize valuable energy to co-author publications, address harmful policies, advocate for beneficial policies, demonstrate support and solidarity with Native communities, promote insights from the field for practitioners, and manage media platforms. Additionally, I will utilize organizational and leadership skills to protect scholarship support for Native graduate students and new practitioners, collaborate with members to build interactive pathways of collaboration and professional development, galvanize cross concern group amalgamation to build concerted efforts to address complex issues affecting mental wellness for AMCD populations. As an individual who shares ancestry from tribes of Turtle Island and various countries in Africa as well as directly experiences the ripple effects of ancestors who were enslaved, I offer my energy to our group to seek justice in counseling, support scholarship and research by Native professionals, advocate for equity in the field, and build access to resources for professionals serving Native populations. Coming from an extensive multi-industry professional background including over 10 years in the field of counseling and seven years of high engagement with counseling associations, I will humbly volunteer myself and my diverse skillset to serve as a co-VP for the Native American Concerns group to uplift and deliver the mission of AMCD.

VICE PRESIDENT – INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

Sachin Jain

Dr. Sachin Jain is the program director and core faculty for the Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MSC) program at the University of Providence. He completed his Masters (Clinical Psychology) in India and PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision from the University of Wyoming. He immigrated to the US from India and 2003 and created one of the first CACREP accredited programs consisting of all faculty born internationally and naturalized citizens of the US. He has mentored many international students and has helped them network and attain positions throughout the US. He have lived, visited and worked in over 40 countries.
He is a certified counselor, K–12 Mathematics & Physics teacher. He has published two books, 35 articles in peer-reviewed journals and numerous presentations and book chapters. Some of the awards he received include the “Influential Teacher” from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) “Outstanding Dissertation in Counseling” from the American Educational Research Association; Outstanding contribution to scholarship” awarded by the University of Idaho; “Advocacy Award” from the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development. “Emerging Leader” by the Association of Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES).

The National Board of Certified Counselor (NBCC) and ACES also awarded Dr. Jain as an International Fellow.

Currently, he is serving as the Treasurer for the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development. For the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, he is serving as a committee member for Diversity Scholarship Committee, and the Decolonizing and Antiracism Special Committee. In past, he served as the President of the Indian Association of Mental Health counselors, chair of the American Counseling Association’s International committee & member of CACREP’s international steering committee, IR-CEP. He has received 40 grants and if elected will continue social justice and advocacy through leadership at regional, national and international organizations.

**LoriAnn Stretch**

I am honored to have been selected as a candidate for Vice President for International Concerns with the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD) for a term of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026. I have been working with the International Concerns Group since its inception. As a member of the group, I have helped facilitate meetings, coordinated webinars and trainings, and assisted with the development of a resource database dedicated to assisting international faculty and students. My international experience includes serving as the IRCEP Managing Director, completing some of my education in Costa Rica, facilitating several cultural immersion experiences for students aged 10 years through doctoral students, living/workng in four different countries, and advocating for fair and accessible immigration practices. I am passionate about providing a global perspective of counseling and actively integrate international perspectives in my teaching, training, and supervision. We must engage globally to truly function as ethical, multicultural competent practitioners.

I am an experienced leader in ACA, have been practicing counseling for 25 years, and have been a counselor educator for 22 years. I have served in numerous leadership positions at the state and national level. My hope is to continue the great work of Dr. Shillingford by facilitating the development of resources for and in the support of international students and faculty, developing international competencies, challenging counselor educators to move beyond a U.S. centric approach to counselor training, and creating spaces for internationally focused research, teaching, and supervision. Thank you for considering my nomination.

**Regina Finan**

I am pleased to accept the nomination for Vice President for the Multiethnic, Multiracial, and Transracial Adoptee (MMTAG) Concerns Group. I am an assistant professor in
the Counselor Education department at the University of West Georgia. My research includes examination of race-based discrimination, multicultural and social justice training and pedagogy, and multiracial identity. I have been a member of AMCD since 2010, volunteered for the conference, and currently serve as the Vice President of MMTAG. I have also been active with the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) and the Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (SACES) in leadership and volunteer positions. As a biracial woman, I am committed to providing and promoting education, engagement, research, community-building, and resources pertaining to the needs and experiences of the multiethnic, multiracial, and transracial adoptee community. In my first term I was able to establish the presence of this concerns group, facilitate a community of interest, and develop successful programming to meet MMTAG goals. In a second term, I hope to strengthen this group through further community-building, ongoing programming, and promoting and producing research to support the interests and needs of this population. I hope to have your consideration and support in my efforts to continue to cultivate excellence and contribute to the overall success of AMCD and its constituents.

GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Melissa Carmona

My interest in this position comes from a desire to further connect and learn with others. My name is Melissa Carmona (she/elle). I am a second-year doctoral student at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. I have a master’s degree in clinical mental health counseling from UNCG as well. I have practiced in community and private practice settings as a counselor who specializes in eating disorders, trauma, and immigration stressors. My research interest exists around the impact of food scarcity in Latine communities who have struggled with disordered eating; Most recently, I am interested in how these showed up during the stay-at-home order at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am also currently teaching an undergrad-level course on Love, Sex, and Relationships!

I want you to know all other parts of me that would be coming into this position. I come from a family of Colombian immigrants who were once undocumented. My family’s experiences with immigration, financial stress, and other long histories of trauma have played a role in how I view the world through an intersectional lens. I am also a parent to a five-year-old; they are my constant reminder to stay in the here and now while time is ever moving. My first language is Spanish, which I bring into my clinical practice and hope to implement in my research and role as part of AMCD. With this, privilege has also been a part of my story: I am an able-bodied, white Latina, U.S. citizen who speaks English, and is in higher education. This is important to name within this context of your decisionmaking when voting and for me to be aware of how I center myself in spaces such as AMCD.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR SOUTHERN REGION

Kristy Christopher-Holloway

Greetings! I am Kristy Christopher-Holloway and I am honored to be nominated to serve the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development as the Southern Region Representative. I have had the privilege to serve in various roles under the leadership
of four AMCD Presidents. While working as the Webmaster, I was responsible for timely updates to the website. Additionally, as the Chair of Professional Development and Communications, not only did I organize and promote continuing education workshops, but I was also instrumental in developing a specific and streamlined communication system for AMCD leadership.

My commitment to AMCD has a proven record through my leadership and dedication over the years. Currently, I serve as the AMCD Communications Chair as well as the Co-Chair for the American Counseling Association of Georgia. I am also a Counselor Educator and have been a mental health practitioner for 17 years, with nearly 15 years leading my group private practice. My collective involvement in AMCD, along with my university and private practice experience, and state association leadership, positions me to utilize my skills to continue to leverage relationships and support states in the southern region. If elected to serve in this role, my goal will be to remain focused of AMCD’s mission to “advocate, advance and improve educational and professional opportunities for members from diverse cultural backgrounds” throughout the Southern Region.

Roberto Martinez
Candidate information not available.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR WESTERN REGION

Kristopher G. Hall

I appreciate the nomination and would love to rejoin AMCD as an executive member. I previously served as the Graduate Student Rep and later as historian during my early career as a professor at the University of San Diego where I currently serve as department chair. I’d like to return to AMCD at this point in my career to unify the concerns of the Western Region. We are a diverse group with a myriad of issues and innovations which could be shared with the larger body.

I’ve spent the last several years researching marginalized populations with a focus on counselor educators and activist populations. I’ve also continued my service to diverse communities by standing as a member on several committees at my university and as a founding member of the Black Employee Alliance, a community/advocacy group for Black employees across campus. I may have been away, but I’ve been busy!

It is my sincere hope that you’ll consider me for this position as I’d love to return to the warm atmosphere that is AMCD. I look forward to your vote.

Jorge Rosales Lopez

Jorge Rosales Lopez, CRC, LPC, NCC (he/him/el) is a third-year doctoral candidate within Idaho State University’s Counselor Education and Supervision doctoral program. Growing up in a predominately Latinx community he witnessed first-hand the need for accessible and culturally-sensitive counseling services offered to marginalized groups. As a fluent Spanish speaker, he has rendered bilingual counseling to historically underserved individuals living with disabilities. His professional interests seek to continue expanding and advocating for the availability of resources to marginalized populations.
As a NBCC 2022–23 Minority Doctoral Fellow, Jorge strives to embody a professional and personal identity centered around diversity, equity and inclusion. As a first-generation student he understands that every leadership opportunity beholds unknown territory to trek, but with the support of his family he hopes to continue breaking down the barriers for future generations. Se Feliz!

**Justina Wong**

I am a second-year new professional earning hours towards licensure at a private practice in California. I work in a diverse environment, with approximately 80% of my clients identifying as people of color. Of the 80%, approximately 30% of them identify with the LGBTQIA+ community. I am extremely dedicated to serving diverse populations.

I have been an active member of AMCD since I joined. In the past, I served as the Newsletter Committee Graduate Student Liaison and a Graduate Assistant to Margarita Martinez during her presidential year. I was also a member of the AMCD Conference Committee, AMCD International Concerns Group, and AMCD AAPI Concerns Group. I was a founding member of the Courageous Conversation Series and Brave Spaces for Diverse Students interest group for my master’s program. I am currently a member of the ACA Human Rights Committee. In my spare time, I am the editor of an online professional newsletter for BIPOC counselors called the Real Talk.

It would be a wonderful privilege to be the Western Region Representative for AMCD. AMCD is not just an ACA division. It is my home. When I felt lost or experienced severe imposter syndrome during graduate school, I received the biggest support from my AMCD mentors. Some of them didn’t know who I was or what I wanted to do and they cheered me on anyway. That is the beauty of AMCD. Everyone is welcome, and everyone has a seat at the table. If there’s no room at the table, we find a way to make room. It would be an honor to continue the amazing work that my elders have established before me by representing AMCD as the Western Region Representative.

**Jacqueline C. Woods**

It is an honor and privilege to be nominated to serve the American Counseling Association and specifically the Western Region Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development. Currently, I am a school counselor in Los Angeles California as well as a Licensed and Professional Counselor in private practice. I have over 22 years of experience working in the field of Education and Mental Health. I am also, I am a second-year doctoral student in Counselor Education and Supervision at Hampton University. My research focuses on how Counselors can be trained to support Black student academic achievement and trauma in Black families.

If elected I will:

- Ensure cultural competence and advocacy are a priority.
- Make sure the members of the Western Region concerns are heard.
- Work to increase membership
I am excited for the opportunity to represent my Colleagues and the Counseling profession as the Western Region Multicultural Counseling and Development Representative.

**Ingram Dirton**

Hello, my name is Ingram Dirton, and I am running for the Western Region Representative position in the Association of Multicultural Counseling and Development. Although this would be the first position that I would have to run for, I do have experience in leadership positions with previous employers. Some of my most recent positions have involved training individuals from different backgrounds in how to perform their tasks that were required for the positions that they had applied for. Doing so allowed me to get to know the individuals in regard to their strengths and areas that they could use improvement. I was also able to communicate their progress with management to ensure that they were being trained in relation to what their positions required.

Currently, I am still a graduate student studying to become a counselor and have explored studies in working with those with different cultural backgrounds. What I am learning is preparing me for being able to meet the needs of those, regardless of their cultural backgrounds. I am passionate in my studies and plan to grow as both a student and as a future counselor. Being able to explore the position of a Western Region Representative would allow me to be able to ensure that the needs of the Association of Multicultural Counseling and Development would be met so that the members would be able to rely on this division to empower them to meet the needs of the community. Within the term of 2023 and 2026, I plan to be able to meet these needs.

**Arien Muzacz**

I am honored that I was nominated to become AMCD’s next western region representative. I’ve lived in the western region for the past 6 years and have been an active member of AMCD since 2011. I previously served on the AMCD Ethics Committee. I currently serve as the Supervisor Representative for Oregon ACES and am a member of the Oregon Counseling Association and ACES, AADA, SAIGE, and AHC. I identify professionally as a humanistic counselor/educator/scholar, and I’ve been engaged in professional and social justice advocacy since earning my master’s degree from the City College of New York. I am licensed to practice in Oregon, New York, and New Mexico, and maintain a small private practice. As a full-time faculty member, I advise master’s students across the western region, supervise PhD students across the nation, and conduct research related to equity and intersectionality, with a focus on addiction, sexuality, and health disparities. I also identify as a White, abled, cisgender female bisexual from a lower middle class background, and as a first-generation college graduate. Professional service is a way I can use my social privilege to promote equity in educational and healthcare settings, including CES programs.

I want to serve AMCD as Western region representative because of the ethnic and cultural diversity represented across the states of this region, from states with primarily White residents to states with predominantly Latinx and Indigenous populations. I want to learn what our members in the western states want from AMCD and to represent the range of identities and professional roles our members hold, e.g., students, counselors, supervisors, educators, advocates, and leaders, to our AMCD leadership. We have so much community wisdom and expertise to share with each other! Together, we can sustain our efforts in ways that we cannot alone.
Jennifer Robertson

Hi, my name is Jennifer Robertson and my pronouns are she/they. I am seeking office as an advocate for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to increase education and awareness and develop more affirming language and best practices for the counseling community which honors the intersectionality of people’s experiences. I was the President of the LGBTQ+ Counseling Community at Northwestern University and developed a Gender Inclusive Counseling program for my capstone project. While my career as a counselor has been providing affirming clinical counseling for LGBTQIA+ individuals, partners and families and educating my colleagues, I want to expand my leadership and advocacy as a multi-culturally competent counselor who endeavors to consistently learn, connect and take affirming and inclusive action.

Dèsa Karye Daniel

Dr. Dèsa Karye Daniel was born and raised in California. She is now an assistant professor at the University of Colorado, Denver, and a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in New Mexico and Colorado. Daniel’s research interests focuses on supervision relationships for racial/ethnic minorities, the lived experiences of racial/ethnic college students, and the experiences of Black/African American Womxn in academic spaces. She advocates for inclusive spaces for racial/ethnic minority students within academia and professional organizations for increasing graduate student resources. She received her doctoral degree in Counselor Education at the University of New Mexico. Daniel holds dual master's degrees in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Higher Education Administration from New Mexico State University. Dr. Daniel was named a 2021 New Mexico Office of African American Affairs Everyday Hero for her mental health work with Black communities. Daniel was the recipient of the 2020 NBCC Minority Fellowship. She first became a member of AMCD as a master’s student in 2012. Daniel later served as professional development chair from 2018 to 2019. As chair of the AMCD Professional Development Committee, the committee offered 17 webinars including 24 CEUs and video archives for the AMCD historical record. Creating opportunities for counselor development and access to information has always been a focus of her leadership advocacy. By June 31, 2019, the webinar series engaged over 3,500 registered guests and 2,900 video views. Daniel has spent her professional and personal life within the Western Region. As chair of the Western Region, she aspires to create community, offer engagement opportunities, and share resources across the region.

Michelle Ambriz

My name is Michelle Ambriz and I have been nominated for the Western Region Representative with the Multicultural and Development (AMCD) for the term of July 1, 2023-June 30, 2026. I am in good standing with the American Counseling Association (ACA) and Grand Canyon University (GCU). I am a current student at GCU studying for my Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MSCMHC). I am at the beginning of my program and have straight A’s.

I am very currently active in Forty-days for life as a team captain and a member of the choir in my church and will be starting class in November to become a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant Mater Professional as part of my retraining through workman’s comp. Before my accident, I was on duty as a Transit System Security Armed Officer and was injured while on duty. I have had to change my career. I am a well-rounded person, have worked in many different environments, and interacted with many communities.
I was also a Bus driver for the Metropolitan Train System. I also lead a Catholic women’s prayer group for my church every Tuesday for 6 years before I moved to a different county. I love working in the community and learning about other cultures and issues they face in all aspects of their lives, in many of the jobs that I had, I would provide resources or just listen to those in need. I enjoy sharing my own hardships and struggles with others that I have overcome and hope that every person I encounter is in a better place. I am a leader in my community, and I will do whatever I can to make the lives around me better.

American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Cecilia Guyton

Dr. Cecilia L. Guyton, LMHC is a Counselor Educator, Practitioner and Qualified Supervisor for Mental Health Counselors in the State of Florida. She has worked in a number of settings which include but are not limited to corrections, school based (K-12) mental health services, addictions, co-occurring disorders as well as community mental health.

Dr. Guyton has extensive leadership experience where she has currently served as the ARCA Treasurer since 2018. She has also served at the state level where she is a Past President and Treasurer of the Florida Counseling Association. If elected as President-Elect, Cecilia will continue to work with other members to identify ways of improving the integration of disability standards within program curriculum. Additionally, she will also work with other individuals to provide educational sessions to assist practitioners work more effectively with those who have disabilities.

Paige Dunlap

ARCA has a rich history in the field of rehabilitation counseling. Its dedication to helping spread the word about our profession as rehabilitation counselors cannot be matched. ARCA has paved the way for many other organizations to take a closer look at how to best serve individuals with disabilities. In recognizing this dynamic history, I seek the position of President with enthusiasm! Our profession as rehabilitation counselors is always changing and evolving. Having served as Governing Council Representative, I understand the importance of providing a voice for our division. Collaborating with other divisions and ACA, as a whole, would provide an excellent platform to consolidate our interests and visions with more widespread implementation. I would be committed to expressing the challenges and concerns that we face as a division, while offering supportive suggestions and strategies to achieve not only our division goals, but the larger vision of ACA. I believe that in order to be progressive in this position, my goal must also involve willingness to think critically and recognize areas of improvement within our division. This process cannot be done alone. It will be necessary to ask and reflect upon the distinguished opinions of our membership to continue to meet and exceed our expectations for divisional quality and caliber. My goal is to be an advocate for our members and the individuals with disabilities that we provide services for. I will continue to help develop our objective of increasing the understanding of our specialty area of counseling. As our field continues to evolve, so must ARCA. Continuation of projects and the development of new objectives, including increased membership, are all on the horizon for the coming year! It would be an honor to serve ARCA as the President during this time.
TREASURER

Genesis Rodriguez

Hello my name is Genesis Rodriguez and I am currently obtaining my Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling at Florida International University. I am a Navy veteran with a passion for assisting individuals with disabilities. During my time in the military, I worked closely with disabled veterans and knew I needed to go into a profession that would allow me to help service members transition from military to civilian life. I am the right candidate for the Treasurer position because I am dependable, honest, and trustworthy. Further, I hold great organizational skills. I have experience with recordkeeping at my current job in the Veterans office on campus. I have experience handling student financials and will be a great asset to the organization.

Dustin Herbert Reed

My name is Dustin Herbert Reed, PhD, LPC, LIMHP, CRC, NCC, ALICE. I am a Contributing Faculty here at Walden University.

My education was obtained in New Orleans, Louisiana my home city. I obtained my PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision from the University of Holy Cross, New Orleans, in May 2017. My Master of Health Sciences in Rehabilitation Counseling in May 2013, and My Bachelor’s of Science in Psychology in December 2005.

I am currently the Mid-Western Representative for ARCA. I have also performed various services for numerous associations in the counseling profession including ACA, ACES, SACES, LCA, and its division LASERVIC. I served as an associate editor for NBCC’s The Professional Counselor.

As one of over 50 million Americans with a disability, I understand first-hand many challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. An extreme preemie, I was born in February though due in June, and overcame the odds presented by a grade-4 intraventricular hemorrhage, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, hyaline membrane disease, retrolental fibroplasia, cerebral palsy and 10 surgeries. I have had years of experience of knowing, working with, and living with people with various types of disabilities. During my master’s program, I assisted in teaching special education students as part of service learning. For many summers as a camp counselor, I taught, interacted with, and mentored youth with Spina bifida and other neurological impairments. In addition, I served a year at Children’s Hospital as a recreational volunteer spending time, playing games, and talking with many children challenged with different disabilities. Enabling adults and children to maximize their potentials is the most noble of all ambitions as well as the most rewarding. I have teaching and research interests in ethics, crisis intervention, disability studies, distance learning, distance counseling, distance supervision, counseling theories, diagnosis and treatment, and counseling skills.

PUBLIC POLICY, PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION, AND STANDARDS CHAIR

Taryn Richardson

Candidate information not available.
Danita Henry Stapleton

My name is Dr. Danita Henry Stapleton, EdD, CRC, LPC-S, NCC, BC-THP. I am currently chairperson of Rehabilitation Studies at Alabama State University. My reason for seeking the office of southern regional representative is to join the hordes of rehabilitation professionals who aspire to do all that they possibly can to both secure and enhance the professional identity of rehabilitation counselors. I am desirous of an opportunity to broaden my awareness of challenges faced by rehabilitation counselor educators and those in the practice of rehabilitation counseling. I am particularly interested in becoming more enlightened as it relates to barriers to (student) employment, CRCC certification, and CACREP accreditation. I am at a point in my career where I need to do more. The field of rehabilitation counseling has provided many opportunities for me to grow both professionally and personally. It is now time to give back on a larger scale. I realize that my active contributions as a regional representative will have full-reaching ramifications in improving the lives of persons with disabilities.

I have reviewed the mission of the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association. I am willing to fully embrace endeavors that will support the association in accomplishing its mission. I look forward to the privilege of improving and advancing the profession; proliferating research findings with direct application to the practice of rehabilitation counseling; fostering dialogues and coordinating activities among stakeholders; and collaborating with other national professional organizations and consumer groups with the central goal of improving the profession of rehabilitation counseling in its service to persons with disabilities.

Quiteya D. Walker

Greetings, fellow members of the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA).

My name is Quiteya D. Walker, and I ask for your support to serve in the role of Southern Region Representative. I received my master’s degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from South Carolina State University and my Doctoral degree in Counseling, Rehabilitation, and Student Development from the University of Iowa. I currently teach in a master’s Rehabilitation Counseling Program at Winston-Salem State University. I am an Associate Licensed Counselor, a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, and a National Certified Counselor. I have seventeen years of experience in rehabilitation counseling and sixteen years of experience as a member of ARCA.

I began my service to ARCA in 2006 as the Student Task Force Representative. Since then, I have served the board in several capacities, including the 2015–2016 ARCA President. Although I rotated off the board in 2017, I maintained my membership and support for ARCA.

If nominated as the Southern Region Representative, I will serve as a liaison between the region and the ARCA Board, ensuring that the southern region membership voices are heard and included in the decision-making processes. Through professional development initiatives and various virtual platforms, I will cultivate and foster dialogue and coordinate activities among rehabilitation counselors, educators, administrators, and other rehabilitation professionals. I understand the importance of networking and collaboration; I will actively engage with other professional organizations and consumer groups to develop and cultivate collaborations and partnerships. One action item that comes to
mind is professional development opportunities that promote interdisciplinary conversations and learning opportunities.

My prior experiences on the ARCA board and commitment to the art and science of rehabilitation counseling make me a strong candidate for the position. I ask for YOUR vote to serve as YOUR Southern Region Representative.

Reginald Gladney

I see the opportunity to serve as the Southern Region Representative for the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA) as an extension of what I have strived for in my professional career. I believe the professional development of rehabilitation professionals and enhancing our professional identity can be achieved through a collective of like-minded individuals. I have accomplished this partnership in other targeted areas of the profession and see this opportunity to help broaden the presence of rehabilitation counseling professionals. For the last 14 years, I have been in the federal sector, actively contributing to leadership, advocating for Veterans with disabilities, and enhancing the professional skills of counselors by overseeing training opportunities. I will ensure my efforts advance the profession, engage whenever possible in collaborative efforts, and serve in the best way possible accurately report the region’s contributions to the profession. Therefore, I could not think of a better way than to leverage my 26+ years of experience working as your Southern Region Representative.

MIDWEST REGION REPRESENTATIVE

Chia-Chiang (CC) Wang

If elected as the next ARCA Midwest Regional Representative, I will support and advocate for our members to address their needs and advance the quality of rehabilitation counseling services, training/education, supervision and research. I would love to facilitate greater communication within and across rehabilitation-allied fields to inform rehabilitation counselors and educators about the most cutting-edge knowledge/skills and evidence-based practices for better quality of services and training. I hope my contribution to ARCA and RC field will strengthen the partnership of practitioners, educators, researchers, and policymakers to advance the efficacy and effectiveness of clinical services in our field.

As medicine, technology, and social environments continue to evolve, rehabilitation counseling field needs to keep moving forward while facing many new changes and challenges. There are so many outstanding rehabilitation counseling education programs and rehabilitation counselors in the Midwest region. I envision ARCA to use collective wisdom and power to optimize the promotion of the values and impact of rehabilitation counseling professionals and our services at the state and national levels. We also have to train more rehabilitation counselors and upgrade the quality of physical, psychosocial and vocational rehabilitation services in a consumer-centered approach.

I will be honored to be a part of ARCA by representing the Midwest region and enhance the opportunities of facilitating rehabilitation professionals to exchange ideas and develop partnerships in order to advance rehabilitation counseling education, research and services. Thank you very much for considering me as your regional representative to convey our voices to the ARCA and rehabilitation counseling community!
Jina Chun

The professional discipline of rehabilitation counseling is in the midst of change in relation to professionalization and the future of the discipline. Some of these challenges are long-standing, complex, and difficult. However, they also represent opportunities for the discipline to revitalize overall efforts that hopefully will lead to a bright future for Rehabilitation Counseling in the years ahead. As Midwest Region Representative for ARCA, I will pursue the strengths of the profession into a vision that supports our viability and longevity. To achieve the goal, I will actively engage in transforming the value of rehabilitation counseling to educate pre-counselors, rehabilitation counselors, and other rehabilitation professionals within and among various specialty areas. In addition, I will work with the ARCA Board to seek opportunities for inclusion and integration of disability community stakeholders to build trust and develop support that also prepares professionals to best serve individuals with disabilities, their families, as well as employers. These efforts will ensure that the needs and wishes of our stakeholder groups are taken into account in the current and future practice of rehabilitation counseling. As Midwest Region Representative, I have the ultimate privilege to serve ARCA and ACA and its outstanding constituents. I will provide thoughtful, steady leadership to strengthen our professional identity, expand public awareness of the profession and practice, and advocate for improving access and opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

WESTERN REGION REPRESENTATIVE

Katherine (Katie) Osabe

My name is Katherine Osabe, and I am in my last semester of the Master’s program at San Diego State University for Rehabilitation Counseling. I am the current president of the Rehabilitation Counseling Student Association at San Diego State University. I am currently an Employment Specialist for Mental Health Systems and previously I was a Peer Recovery Coach at Telecare Corporation. I look forward to graduating and using my lived experiences and education to help people in need of assistance. This career track has become my life and I am so grateful to be in this program at SDSU as client of the Department of Rehabilitation. I look forward to serving ARCA in any capacity I can. Thank you!

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

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Stephen Benoit

Stephen C. Benoit, PhD, LPCC-S, earned his PhD in Psychology from Purdue University in 1998, and his research focused on the psychology of obesity and addictions. He has authored over 100 peer reviewed research papers, book chapters and reviews and produced multiple continuing education lectures and series for counselors, social workers and others mental health professionals. His interest in counseling emerged from clinical research and volunteer activities with Crossroads Church, including recovery groups for addictive and impulsive behaviors (e.g., alcohol, binge eating, impulsive spending). He received a Masters in Counseling from the University of Cincinnati (licensed in OH and VA) and is now Vice President of Clinical Operations at Lifeway Counseling Centers, a Christ centered private-practice providing faith-based treatment services. He also start-
ed his own counseling business specializing in binge eating and diabetes behavioral management. Dr. Benoit continues volunteer work at his church and in the development of new collaborative care delivery models between private mental health organizations and partner churches. One component of this is the innovation of teaching materials and online podcast programs for clients, their families and communities. He has previously served on the ASERVIC spiritual and religious values committee to foster inclusion of clients’ spiritual, ethical and religious values and promoted a return to the basics of those values in this time of change and uncertainty. He also continues to collaborate in clinical care and research with academic and medical professionals addressing the roles of spiritual values in healthcare and wellbeing. As ASERVIC President-Elect, Dr. Benoit will promote the inclusion of faith into counselor training and prioritize issues related to the integration of spiritual, ethical, and religious values in the counseling profession.

Anita A. Neuer Colburn

I am honored to be considered for President-Elect, and pledge to faithfully serve if elected.

My roles as counselor, supervisor, advocate, educator, researcher, mentor, and leader are based in my own spiritual journey, as I believe yours are also, and incorporating this vital element of our uniqueness into our work promotes mutual understanding and growth.

We have so very much to learn about ethical integration, regardless of our own religious or spiritual orientation.

As we press on toward this end, we hopefully make room for the spiritual growth that awaits each of us in a deeply personal way.

The world has been and continues to move through many changes, and we are faced with the paradox of embracing, supporting and nurturing equity and inclusion at a time when our political system seems more polarizing than ever. The task is worthy, and ASERVIC remains committed to the challenge of finding ways to be truly inclusive of all religious/spiritual belief systems. Encouraging our membership to find ways to prioritize and operationalize this within our division and outward toward the greater counseling community will be my priority if elected. As Desmond Tutu stated, “As much as the world has an instinct for evil and is a breeding ground for genocide, holocaust, slavery, racism, war, oppression, and injustice, the world has an even greater 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 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.

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

Janeé Avent Harris

Greetings! My name is Janeé Avent Harris and I am a counselor, counselor educator, and proud ASERVIC member. I have leadership experience as an ASERVIC Board member and Religious and Spiritual Competencies Taskforce Chairperson. ASERVIC has a rich history of transformational leadership and impactful contributions in our profession. I would be honored to build upon these successes and help shape our legacy as we continue to move forward.

I have worked in various clinical settings and am especially energized when working in college counseling centers, often with students as they are navigating R/S development
and stages of faith. I am passionate about research in the areas of spirituality, religion, and ethics, with a special emphasis on the role of the Black Church on mental health help-seeking attitudes and behaviors. I have published 31+ articles in peer-reviewed journals including Counseling and Values, Journal of Counseling & Development, and Counselor Education and Supervision. I have presented at local, state, and national conferences. I developed and currently teach a spirituality course in my counselor education program. Perhaps my most meaningful work is collaborating with spiritual leaders to increase mental health awareness and decrease stigma in their local communities.

My vision for ASERVIC is: (1) to be a dynamic and innovative organization that prioritizes serving its members in their various roles and professional settings, (2) support and advance culturally responsive integration of religious, spiritual, and ethical considerations in counseling and counselor education with clinical resources and empirical contributions, and (3) prioritize intentional diversity and inclusion initiatives that reflect organizational values and professional ethics.

Thank you so much for your consideration and I look forward to the great work that we can do together.

BOARDS MEMBER

Jean Marie Miller

Dr. Jean Miller is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Colorado, a Nationally Certified Counselor, an Approved Clinical Supervisor, an educator, and a researcher. She utilizes a person-centered, strengths-based approach, focusing on the holistic wellness of mind, body, and spirit. Life is a journey of self-discovery, learning, and developing into our truest selves, and she truly feels that it is an honor to walk alongside others on their journey.

Her background includes working with clients in private practice, community mental health, and higher education settings. In private practice, she provides counseling, coaching, and consulting services to individuals, couples, groups, and organizations. As an experienced educator and researcher, she also facilitates webinars, training, and professional development workshops. Her research focuses on the areas of counseling, mindfulness, holistic wellness, and transformational healing in grief and loss. She is actively involved in mental health advocacy in her role as VP of the Board of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), and women’s advocacy work in her roles as Research Director and Community Advocate for MWC (Modern Widows Club).

Jean is passionate about music, spirituality, yoga, travel, lifelong learning, and most importantly, spending time with her loving support network of family and friends. Her biggest pride and joy is her family and her two incredible kids who are both changing the world through their creative talents and social justice advocacy work.

Jacquelyn “Jackie” Berke

Hello! I’m honored to be a nominee for ASERVIC’s representative candidate for Board Member. In the past, I was actively involved in various organizations as members of boards, more recently I have had the privilege of working with a state organization as a member of their Board. Currently, I am serving as a Member-At-Large for a State counseling organization board for a period of two years. As a solo counselor with their own private practice with more than 7 years of experience working with a vast variety of
clients with different religious and spiritual affiliations and a current Counselor Education & Supervision doctoral student of a minority spiritual foundation, I realize responsibility related with this nomination for this position gives many counselors a voice who do not fit in the majority description of society! During my time of service to other boards and my current experience of being a current counselor, I am actively working to build stronger relationships with educators and leaders in our professional counseling field to bridge understanding of spiritual competencies of differing spiritualities and religions for both clients and counselors. I believe these relationships are essential to moving forward as an ASERVIC representative and core competencies. In addition, minority religious and spiritual voices are impacted by the guidelines and competencies that ASERVIC encourages and promotes. Spiritual issues are not only important to our clients but significantly feature in today’s counseling education, legal, and ethical discussions of counseling, supervision, and our education competencies. If elected I promise to do my best to be a strong voice representing all ASERVIC matters and provide a voice for all members and clients. My goal as a Board member is to be actively involved in all facets of the process, including meetings, committees, workgroups, and communication of ASERVIC leadership.

Aparna Ramaswamy

As a counselor-educator and supervisor, I intentionally integrate Eastern healing traditions with Western counseling concepts. I have earned two doctorate degrees (EdD & PhD) both in service of ancient healing traditions that pre-date Western counseling theories and constructs, and work to relieve distress and adjust dysfunctions. In my role as a counselor-advocate, I am passionate about amplifying voices that speak of ancient wisdom traditions focused on relieving suffering. Specifically, traditions ranging from yoga meditation, non-theistic religio-spiritual concepts of Buddhism and Jainism to faith and devotion in theistic religions such as Hinduism. Similarly, giving voice to under-represented healing traditions of music, dance & meditation has been the cornerstone of my doctoral studies and counselor identity.

A foundational component of the Association of Spiritual Ethical and Religious Values in counseling (ASERVIC) is the instillment of hope or operating systems of unshakable faith in themselves, goodness, or God. For example, individuals may have fundamental belief that good will prevail, they can and will overcome, or faith they will not be abandoned. I find this component of ASERVIC to be pivotal and in alignment with my personal values. If granted the opportunity, I would be honored to represent ASERVIC as a Board member. As a Board member, I am passionate about diversifying community representation within ASERVIC, that is, diversifying spiritual, cultural, and values-based beliefs & practices within the community. I want to be a representative of communities that identify as non-theistic but spiritual, as theistic with South Asian religious beliefs, or as ethically bound to yoga doctrines. As Board member, I want to be a representative of fellow humans striving to uphold values of truth, non-violence, compassion, mindfulness and unswerving dedication to introspective self-correction.

Jama Davis

Candidate information not available.

Rebecca Welsh

Candidate information not available.
**Stephanie B.L. Haywood**

I feel I am an excellent candidate to serve as a board member for the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC) for the American Counseling Association because I would like the chance to represent other like-minded counselors for the term of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026. I am an active member in my church through leading a celebrate recovery group, charitable donation projects and attending weekly praise and worship church service. In addition, I have a private practice which I am able to give a portion of my time to service work within my church community. Drawing from my spirituality, has made me a better counselor which in turn has made me a better person.

**Jeremiah L. Peck**

I am excited to bring my background and experience to the position of Board Member to ASERVIC. I hold a PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision, and as core faculty in a counseling program I have instructed courses on spirituality, diversity, and ethical practice. I am also an ordained clergy. As the Clinical Supervisor in my group practice, I often develop intern and associate counselors to integrate spirituality into their practice, training them how to assess and incorporate the client’s unique spiritual identity and experience. From an administrative standpoint, my background in organizational leadership and human resources will help me be an effective voice on the board.

As a Board Member, I would bring an emphasis on cultural humility to the advocacy of issues and activities related to spiritual, ethical, and religious values in counseling and counselor education.

**Angelique Black McKoy**

Angélique Black McKoy is a Licensed Professional Counselor and National Certified Counselor. She has notable counseling experience working with children and families (OMHC), child welfare (TFC), marriage and singles (pastoral ministry). Her therapeutic endeavors are a calling and purpose-driven work. She is a licensed and ordained minister and serves diligently at her the local church in Maryland. A seasoned trainer, facilitator and Professional Development Coach, she works as the Training Institute Manager at the House of Ruth Maryland (HRM). In this mission-driven role, she oversees the efforts of the Training Institute team and ensures the quality of its services with efforts to best meet the educational needs of the community. She is also responsible for creating professional development opportunities that are responsive to HRM’s staff and develop a package of technical assistance products that highlight field best practices and serve as a social enterprise for the organization. Angélique is a native New Yorker, transplanted to Maryland, and holds a bachelor’s degree in Psychology from the University of Phoenix, a CACREP-accredited master’s degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and is clinically licensed in the state of Maryland, along with Trauma and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace certifications. As a fierce advocate for special needs children and families, her philanthropic work includes serving as Co-Chairperson of the Harford County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) and a Board Member of Not-Another Child, Inc. in New York City, whose mission is to provide wholeness, healing, and advocacy to communities and families of gun violence and other traumatic events.
Stacey C Lilley

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for the ASERVIC board and agree to uphold the mission and goals of the organization. I am qualified with over 25 years in the counseling field. My counseling experiences include counselor educator, licensed school counselor, licensed professional counselor, clinical supervisor, and various leadership roles within the university setting. I have devoted my career to helping those I serve not only to maintain a solid and ethical counselor identity but optimal wellness. It is my belief that counselors must openly explore and strive to encourage change from within their clients in all areas of their life – one key component being spiritual and religious beliefs. This exploration must be done ethically and lovingly to motivate our clients, allowing them to reach their best holistic selves. I am excited about this possibility and would love to serve alongside each of those upholding the ASERVIC mission. Through this reciprocal relationship, I hope to contribute to the organization and learn and grow together.

Laura Bailey Smith

I am an Associate Professor in a CES and clinical mental health program and identify as an existential constructivist counselor. As such, the way that spiritual, ethical and religious values are integrated into the counseling environment at the educational, research, and practice levels has always been important to me. I have mentored several student dissertations, as well as served on multiple research teams and projects that have addressed spiritual, ethical and religious values. I have also served in multiple leadership positions in varying organizations including treasurer and president. Most recently, I have served as the President of the TN chapter of ACES.

I am seeking a position as an ASERVIC board member for a variety of reasons. I believe that spiritual issues are a key part of individual development, wellness, and the counseling process, and as a board member of ASERVIC I can serve its members by continuing in its mission of supporting the exploration, development, and expression of spiritual, ethical, and religious values. There is a need for continued growth in our profession in how we address value conflicts, and how we view spiritual and religious values. For example, I am currently working to develop an elective on integrating spirituality in counseling due to continual conversations with both master’s and doctoral level students who struggle with balancing their own spiritual needs and identities and those of their students and their clients. As a board member, I would strive to embody servant leadership and look to our members, research, and our profession as a whole as we work together towards continued growth.

Adam Brandt

When I was in my doctoral program, I knew that I wanted my research to highlight spiritual development in the context of counseling and counselor education. From an early age, I grew up in a religious system that stunted my faith and multicultural development, and it was not until I started my master’s program in clinical mental health counseling that I began to unlearn old faith paradigms and discover an adaptive spiritual tradition that aligned with my values as a counselor. Given this background, I wanted to understand how people integrate spirituality in counseling in a multicultural competent way.

When I was a doctoral student, I found the works of Mark Epstein, a prolific therapist who writes about the intersection of psychoanalysis and Buddhism. His works inspired me to write about Buddhism in the context of therapy through outreach articles published in
Psychology Today and Psychotherapy.net. From there, I also wrote a peer-reviewed article for The Journal of Humanistic Counseling. In this article, titled I Am Awake, I explore the recent burgeoning demographic of people identifying as spiritual but not religious (SBNR) and how Buddhist psychology’s focus dovetails well with the ethos and direction SBNR clients are seeking in their psycho-spiritual development.

In addition to this work, I completed my dissertation titled Jesus take the Wheel: Experiences of White post-evangelical Christian students’ faith disorientation in counselor education. In this study, I researched the relationship between White evangelicalism and white supremacy culture and heteronormativity, and I discussed what impact this has on counseling students’ multicultural development. Through this research agenda, I won a 2022 ASERVIC Research Award.

Currently, I am an assistant professor at Campbell University and a psychotherapist at Creasman Counseling, and I’m dedicated to exploring the intersection of spirituality and multiculturalism in my practice, scholarship, teaching, and service.

Rasheena Bowen
Candidate information not available

Kristy Ford
As an active member in good standing with the American Counseling Association since 2015, I am seeking the office of Board Member for the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC) division. I serve as the program director and a core faculty member for the CACREP accredited online Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at Liberty University, a faith-based institution with a vision to “develop Christ-centered men and women with the values, knowledge, and skills essential to impact the world”. I have a passion for the ethical integration of faith and spirituality in clinical mental health practice for those clients seeking ways to honor their religious values as they pursue mental, emotional, and behavioral wellness. I have practiced as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) in the state of Florida since 2013, while developing counselors in training as a Florida Qualified LMHC Supervisor and directing the Hope Springs Counseling Group in Marianna, FL. Further, I have published research on the Christian accommodation of mindfulness practice, which indicated significant differences in results when this evidence-based practice is further adapted to align with the client’s worldview and faith practices, enhancing positive treatment outcomes and increasing treatment compliance. I would be privileged to serve our profession and support the American Counseling Association through active engagement on the ASERVIC board, promoting honor for each individual client by honoring their spiritual, ethical, and religious values in counseling practice.

Leila K Warraich
My name is Leila Khalid Warraich, and I am an Assistant Professor at Tarleton State University in Fort Worth, Texas. My clinical experiences include working with children and families. I have fortunate to been as ASERVIC member for the past few years and feel even more so to be nominated to be a Board Member this year. I serve this year on the ASERVIC Media Committee as the Social Media Coordinator, revamping our social media sites for more inclusive and accessible information about our wonderful organization. I am looking forward to continuing to build those platforms for our members but also to
be able to grow ASERVIC presence and gain new members into our diverse body of members. I am passionate about the integration of Spirituality in Counseling, particular in my research. My research areas focus on spiritual competence for counselors in training as well as the needs for Muslim Americans around mental health. My perspective in research and practice is to take a wider community-based lens on collaboration and integration of clergy members into the work professional counselors do. I was invited by the ASERVIC graduate committee to speak on this at their meeting last year as well and present my research on this. If chosen to be ASERVIC Board Member I hope to serve our diverse member body and represent them in our leadership.

**Wendie Woods**

Greetings from Mississippi! I am Wendie Woods and I have served in the counseling field since 1994. I have worked professionally in the university setting, in community mental health, and I have been blessed to operate a private group practice since 2005, offering faith-based counseling to all. I humbly seek your trust in electing me to the ASERVIC Board. I believe all individuals’ faiths and values, when respected and integrated, can expedite growth in the counseling process as well as in governing processes. I believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ and, trusting the leading of the Holy Spirit, I aspire to exhibit Him to all whom I encounter. I believe in meeting individuals where they are emotionally and spiritually and allowing them to lead in their own journeys. I believe in accepting and loving people as God loves. I am a lover of Jesus, my family and friends, my three rescued fur babies, SEC football, and traveling to music festivals. I have a passion for helping heal the minds, bodies, and spirits of individuals that have experienced trauma. My licenses and certifications include LPC-S, RPT-S, NCC, BC-TMH, and TF-CBT. I am also certified in Animal-Assisted Therapy, Faith-Based Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, and Animal-Assisted Play Therapy. I have availed in service, leadership, and Board positions most of my career including Kingdom Outdoors Board Chairman 2017-present; New Horizons Christian Fellowship Board Member 2009–present; MSAPT (MS Association for Play Therapy) Board member 2018–2021; Oktibbeha County Advisory Council 2002–2012; MSAPT President 2008–2010; Gesher, Inc. Board member 2003–2007; MCA (MS Counseling Association) Mid-East Region President 1999.

Blessings to each of you, my fellow caregivers!

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6*

**Linda Ouellette**

I am honored to be nominated as a Board Member with the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC). I value the work of ASERVIC and the ASERVIC competencies in my work as a counselor educator and supervisor; and licensed mental health counselor and marriage and family therapist. I have brought my lifetime experience with religious values and spirituality to my work with clients and students for mental and relational health. I want to further contributing to including spiritual, ethical, and religious values in the counseling profession by serving as a board member with ASERVIC. I hope to contribute to the mission of ASERVIC by bringing my experience presenting spiritual and religious principles that transcend all doctrines at ASERVIC conferences, serving in ASERVIC roles, and in leadership as ASGW conference chair, Florida Counseling Association president, founding president of Florida Mental Health Counseling Association and board member of the Florida Mental Health Counseling Association.
Charles Nolan Thomas

I have been an active member of ASERVIC in Illinois for over a decade and served as treasurer, President, Past President and now am again the President of our state division. I affirm our vision of we actively explore our own attitudes, beliefs and values about spirituality and/or religion. We will work to produce quality articles and provide viable information through our exploration and research into the evolving spiritual, ethical and religious values in counseling. and our mission to recognize the fundamental role that spirituality and religion may have on a person’s development and journey of healing.

Jennifer Vinces-Cua

Thank you for the opportunity to run for the ASERVIC board member position. My name is Jennifer Vinces-Cua, PhD, LMHC, LPC, ACS, NCC and I am an Assistant Professor of the Counselor Education Department at Kean University. Over the past few years, ASERVIC has been my professional home as a counselor, supervisor, educator, and researcher. ASERVIC's mission to empower and enable the exploration, development, and expression of spiritual, ethical, and religious values relating to the person, society, and counseling professional aligns with my professional DNA as a servant leader.

As an active ASERVIC member, I've had the privilege of contributing in various roles, such as a conference volunteer and graduate student representative. These wonderful experiences provided the opportunity to work alongside ASERVIC leadership and further understand the ways various committees supported the mission. I am currently the chair of the Spiritual and Religious Values committee which contributes by writing articles for our Interaction Newsletter. This committee also celebrates various religious/spiritual holidays by sharing the practical ways counselors can identify and integrate client religious/spiritual values in counseling. In 2020, ASERVIC commissioned the work for translating the Spiritual Competencies into Spanish as a tool for bilingual professionals -- a service initiative I found personally and professionally rewarding, which culminated in a manuscript article currently under review in the Counseling and Values journal. During the summer of 2022, I served as conference co-chair for our Reflection and Renewal Retreat/Conference.

If elected to the ASERVIC Board, I will continue to uphold the mission and vision of the organization, seeking to honor, respect, value, and advocate for all peoples. In collaboration with leadership, I will continue to provide meaningful contributions and further the mission of ASERVIC, thus positively impacting our field, which includes celebrating our diverse spiritual, ethical, and religious values, and backgrounds.

TREASURER

Jennifer K. Niles

Jennifer K. Niles, MA, NCC, is an actively engaged member of the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling. Currently, Jennifer serves ASERVIC as the Media Chair and Webinar Coordinator, as well as the Co-Chair of the 2023 Conference. Previously, Jennifer served ASERVIC as Graduate Student Representative, Co-Chair of the 2022 Conference Retreat Continuing Education Committee, and Volunteer Coordinator of the 2022 Conference Retreat. In each of her previous and present roles for ASERVIC, Jennifer successfully manages details for individual members, reports to the Board,
Jennifer is a doctoral candidate in Counselor Education and Supervision with ten years of clinical experience and service to the profession. She is a fellow of the THRIVE Research and Intervention Center at William & Mary and a member of the Contemplation and Healing Institute. As a practitioner, Jennifer has experience in school counseling, child welfare, private practice, and therapeutic yoga for diverse needs. Her research includes contemplative practices, school counseling, and adolescent spirituality, for which Jennifer received the 2022 ASERVIC Research Award. She finds meaning in sharing contemplative practices in community with others, including her two young children. Jennifer is passionate about the inclusion of spirituality in counseling and in her work with individuals of all ages.

Derek J. Parker

Hello, my name is Derek Parker, and I am running as a candidate for the Treasurer’s position within the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC). I am interested in this position because I have recently completed my 6 years of service as Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Counseling Association (PCA). During this time, I have enjoyed the ability to work with the Executive Committee and ensure financial stewardship and accountability for the division. As Treasurer, I was able to ensure the division made solid financial decisions, utilized our funds to better the membership experience, and established relationships with division members. I am currently an Assistant Professor at Liberty University and have previously served as a clinician, Clinical Supervisor, and Director within a Community Mental Health Organization. As a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in the state of Pennsylvania, I have continued to be engaged in various professional organizations and I have always sought out opportunities to serve and give back to the counseling profession. As such, I am seeking your support to be elected Treasurer of ASERVIC and continue to be actively engaged in the counseling profession. Thank you for your consideration.

Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Kendra L. Jackson

As a faithful member of ASGW, I am honored to be nominated as the President-Elect. Over the years, ASGW has assisted with the acquisition of knowledge and skills to help professionals to effectively implement group work in a diverse and global society. Additionally, ASGW has cultivated leaders and facilitated opportunities for professional and personal growth in members. Since becoming a member of ASGW, I have held many ASGW leadership positions, including serving as the Awards Co-Chair (2017–2018), Awards Chair (2018–2019), Products Committee Member (2018–2019), Membership Chair (2019–2021), and elected Treasurer (2021–present). While navigating various roles,
I have worked diligently with passionate group workers to expand membership benefits and professional development opportunities. Thus, if elected as ASGW President-Elect, I will utilize my creativity to execute initiatives to continue empowering group workers with “the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to practice effective, socially just, and ethical group work in a diverse and global society,” as outlined in the ASGW mission statement and Bylaws (ASGW By-Laws, 2018, p.1). Moreover, I will utilize my organizational skills to collaboratively prioritize organizational needs, meet important deadlines, plan leader and member meetings, and implement the organization’s strategic plan. I will continue to execute culturally responsive group work initiatives. According to Kouzes and Posner (1995; 2002), challenging the process, inspiring a shared vision, enabling others to act, modeling the way, and encouraging the heart are foundational to being a transformative leader and are practices that I will implement as President-Elect. Furthermore, leaning on group work skills and experiences will help me accomplish established organizational goals and to advance the ASGW mission. As President-Elect, I will be passionate and committed to ASGW and the power of group work. In this role, I desire to ignite this same passion in others.

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, ASGW

Devika Dibya Choudhuri

My involvement with ASGW started many years ago and I have been an appreciative member of the association. I eventually started an active engagement with leadership in ASGW, serving as Co-Chair of a Committee, Process Observer, Conference Chair, and President-Elect. I served as President of our association in 2020-21, during the pandemic, and it was a deeply fulfilling experience as we sought to address the isolations of Covid, and the alienation and unrest of racism fully revealed to many who had not seen it as clearly. Having completed a year of service as Past President, I feel I have been intimately involved with ASGW and am ready to serve as its representative to ACA Governing Council.

Beyond my leadership experience with ASGW, I have also served in leadership positions in the profession. I was the Editor for the Michigan Counseling Association Journal for three years, and have served on the Boards of JCD, JMCD, and currently on the SAIGE Journal LGBTQ Issues in Counseling. I was on the Board of Directors for NBCC for two terms, and while Chair of the Board had the immense pleasure of inaugurating the first Minority Fellowship Program funded by SAMHSA which has been responsible for five years of mentoring and supporting brilliant and successful BIPOC counseling students into the profession. I have also served on task forces for ACA, ACES and AMCD on international issues, ethics, supervision and teaching practices. Currently, I serve on a group of other representatives of all the Divisions that develops position statements that address the issues in society for counselors as well as offers guidance for clients. I hope to serve ASGW by bringing a group-centric perspective and process-oriented stance to the valuable work done by ACA Governing Council.

Christopher McCarthy

I am honored to be a candidate for ACA Governing Council Representative.

The qualifications for ACA Governing Representative include experience as ASGW President and a thorough understanding of the history and mission of the Association, which is necessary to be an informed and expert representative with the ACA Governing
Council. I meet each of these qualifications. I have been an active member of ASGW for over 20 years, was editor of the Journal for Specialists in Group Work from 2011 – 2017, and president of ASGW from 2018–2019. Since ASGW is my primary professional home, I did not want to simply ride into the sunset following my presidency. I was therefore grateful to serve in a number of roles in recent years, including as Task Force chair for the Association for Specialists in Group Work Guiding Principles for Group Work, published in 2022, and as chair of the editor search committee for the Journal for Specialists in Group Work. Currently, I am serving as a member of the editorial board of JSGW and as a mentor for the Junior Faculty Mentor Program for JSGW.

I have considerable experience in university administration and leadership at the University of Texas which will be helpful in this role, including serving as director of our counselor training program and being department chair. Outside of UT and ASGW, I have also served in national leadership in the American Educational Research Association.

All of these activities have taught me the importance of representation and communication. The ACA Governing Council is vital to our association and keeping the ASGW board and membership abreast of ACA’s activities is essential. If elected, I will devote the same energy and attention being governing council representative as I have in my other roles in ASGW. Thank you for your consideration!

Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Natasha Barnes

I am seeking the office of President-Elect for the division of Counselors for Social Justice because social justice and diversity, equity, and inclusion issues are of the utmost importance to me as a counselor and counselor educator. I have a passion for advocating for underserved populations to ensure that equity is achieved regardless of cultural backgrounds. As a member of underserved populations, I know firsthand the experiences of oppression and discrimination experienced. Therefore, I work to promote change, create space, and break barriers for those who may not have the voice or confidence to do so for themselves. The division of Counselors for Social Justice focuses on confronting systems that continue to oppress individuals in the counseling profession. This is a mission of mine in my work with students, clients, and the community. I help students not only understand their privileges and/or oppression but also how to use their privilege to evoke change. Additionally, I work to advocate for clients, as well as teach them to advocate for themselves in spaces where they may be oppressed or discriminated against. I recently chaired a race relations conference for the community to discuss the issues that are difficult to discuss, yet necessary to discuss. This provided a safe space for people to learn and grow in how they view social justice issues. We often want to see change but are not always ready to be THE change. I am always willing to speak up and out for necessary change. For this reason, my research presentations, publications, and service to the profession center around DEI issues and strategies and interventions to promote social justice in all areas. I feel that my passion for social justice, and my experience in doing DEI work make me a viable candidate for this position.
Chiquita Long Holmes

I am humbled to have been nominated for the office of President-elect. I possess twenty years of clinical and administrative expertise in mental health. I have worked in various small and large group settings, including rural community mental health care, inpatient services, crisis intervention, trauma, and treatment of substance use disorders. I have earned master’s degrees in School Psychology and Clinical Mental Health Counseling and am currently completing a terminal degree in Counselor Education.

Emanating from my passion for CSJ and desire to expand social justice and advocacy principles, particularly in rural spaces, I have been instrumental in chartering two CSJ chapters. The first is a student chapter at Mississippi State University (MSU), and the second is the State of Mississippi CSJ Chapter. I am actively engaged in teaching and service; examples include undergraduate counseling instruction, President of the Mu Sigma Upsilon chapter of Chi Sigma Iota (MSU), ACES Advisory Committee, ACES Emerging Leader, CSJ Advocacy Committee, and Starkville Oktibehha Unity League (SOUL). Recent awards include SACES Doctoral Student of the Year and MSU Graduate Service Assistant of the Year.

Having served as treasurer for CSJ since 2020, I have been fortunate to work in tandem with three presidents, changing board members, and committee leaders. My tenure as treasurer and CSJ board member uniquely positions me to clearly understand our division’s needs and strategic direction. My goals are designed to maintain our division’s positive trajectory and are guided by my twenty years of counseling and administrative experience. They include:

• Amplifying the voices of our membership/fostering member inclusivity and participation.
• Continuing to cultivate relationships with stakeholders that support robust implementation of Multicultural and Social Justice Competencies within counseling praxis and, more broadly, within Counselor Education.
• Encouraging research/scholarship specific to social justice and advocacy.
• Advancing licensure portability.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Tina Onikoyi

I have had the distinct honor of serving as the Co-chair of the Professional Development Committee for CSJ for the past 3 years and now serve as the current Co-chair of the Advocacy Committee. During this time, my team and I have been able to: reignite consistent webinar opportunities for our members, collaborate with other divisions on social justice initiatives, create and support CSJ’s doctoral internship, as well as cultivate new projects to enhance CSJ’s mission and vision. It has been a privilege working in various capacities as a Licensed Professional Counselor within the mental health and wellness fields for over 10 years. Over the course of these years I have held multiple executive board leadership roles within the community, my sorority and have served as a mentor for several licensed mental health professionals. As a Doctoral Candidate in Clinical Psychology with a thriving group practice, I infuse my values in all aspects of my life. My passion for social justice matters and facilitating healing experiences stems from both my upbringing and my experiences living in several different countries throughout my lifetime. I make it my business to show up as authentic, intentional and
impactful in my interactions. My intentionality continues to serve me as a disruptor and activist who is focused on dismantling harmful systems while creating more equitable and justice-oriented spaces. My most recent impact has been creating a national Cultural Competency Task Force within my sorority to challenge current systems, generate greater awareness and create tangible change. I am seeking office to continue to grow CSJ's current initiatives and honor my ancestors who have paved the way for me to continue the legacy. Thank you for your consideration and for being YOU.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Jennifer Casani

My name is Jennifer Casani. I hold a doctorate in counseling from Barry University and a license in mental health counseling and qualified supervisor credential for mental health and marriage and family therapy in the state of Florida. I have served as president-elect, president, and immediate past-president for SAIGE-FL (formerly FALGBTIC) from July 2020 – July 2022. I am a core faculty member in the online master’s mental health counseling program with The Family Institute at Northwestern University. In this program, my primary responsibility is to teach the Counseling Methods 3: Social Justice, Advocacy, Outreach and Prevention course. In this course, my students and I speak to inequitable treatment in our field of historically underrepresented and systemically minoritized communities and ways to advocate with our individual clients in positions of social justice change agents in community and at systems levels. I have been a member of ACA since 2009, Florida Counseling Association since 2019, SAIGE-FL since 2019, and CSJ since 2021. I would be honored to serve on the CSJ Board as the Communications Officer to continue our efforts toward mental health advocacy in this field, primarily in ways of connecting students and practitioners with outreach information through newsletter and social media disbursement and being available to the CSJ membership for ideas to heighten our involvement in deliberate change for the field.

SECRETARY

Melissa Ramdas

My name is Melissa Ramdas, and I am a full-time faculty member at Mercy College. I am also the co-chair for our CSJ school chapter. As co-chair, I have supported students in creating events and activities that promote social justice awareness on campus. I also participated as a panelist during a Human Rights Day event hosted by our CSJ chapter on supporting LGBT individuals in the counseling profession.

LGBT research is a particular interest of mine and is what has motivated my desire to be a part of CSJ advocacy work. I have coauthored a few studies on Transgender clients and their counseling experiences. We often make recommendations at the end of these studies to encourage other clinicians on how to become knowledgeable and culturally competent when working with diverse clients. One such study focused on school counselors and how they see their role as transgender advocates. I also discuss this with my current students so that they can begin developing their social justice lens while in graduate school.

Thus, I believe that my experience educating others on the needs of being an advocate or ally and my research interest are evident of my current role as a CSJ leader. In addi-
tion, if elected as secretary, I further believe that my experience as an assistant office manager provided me with the skills required for this position. These include but are not limited to being able to take concise notes to highlight the main themes of a meeting, submitting paperwork on time, and participating in event planning. Hence, I believe I am a good candidate for this position and, if elected, look forward to being a part of the leadership team.

Jared Lau

My name is Jared Lau and I am humbled to be nominated for the position of Secretary for Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ). I have counseling experience as a school counselor, a college counselor, and a career center counselor, and am also a licensed mental health counselor with experience with international clients, families, and couples. Currently, I am a core faculty member at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) where I recently served as our department’s Co-Graduate Coordinator, our Counselor Education Program Coordinator, and our CACREP Liaison. Additionally, I have recently completed leadership roles with the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) and the Western Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (WACES).

I believe I make a good fit for the Secretary position as my previous leadership experience has prepared me well in developing important documentation, creating organizational systems for record-keeping and data tracking, establishing attention to detail, and providing timely and helpful communication and information to constituents. Furthermore, I believe my familiarity with the larger structure of the ACA and its divisions is a useful asset for a division secretary as one will need to know the various structural and communication pathway of the division and the larger ACA. Similarly, my time on the ACES Governing Council allowed me to understand how macro-level policies and leadership can influence an organization, its members, and the public at large. On a personal level, while in each of my previous leadership roles I have intentionally infused Social Justice principles into my work, I know I have more to learn, grow, and give. I look forward to the opportunity to learn, grow, and give with everyone in CSJ and to grow CSJ. Thank you for your consideration of my nomination.

Luisairis Soto
Candidate information not available

International Association of Addictions and Offender Counselors (IAAOC)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Dilani Perera

I am humbled, honored, and excited to be considered as President-Elect for the International Association of Addictions and Offender Counselors (IAAOC). After a rewarding internship experience in substance use counseling, immediately after graduation, I worked as a chemical dependency counselor at a minimum-security rehabilitation center. Thereafter, in a hospital in-patient unit for substance users. It is through this work that my passion for addictions and offender work solidified. My involvement with IAAOC began
with being a reviewer and then being on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Addiction and Offender Counseling (JAOC). I also served as the Chair of the Cutting-Edge Committee. Currently, I serve as the Assistant Editor for JAOC and for the Annual Review.

I have been a Counselor Educator for 16 years. Currently, I serve as a Professor and the Department Chair of Counselor Education at Fairfield University. I am a state licensed and nationally certified professional counselor and addiction counselor. I have published in the areas of addiction, assessment, multicultural issues, and training of professional counselors and counselor educators. I am the immediate Past President for Connecticut Association for Counselor Education and Supervision.

If selected as President-Elect of IAAOC, building on the work of those before me, I will use my experiences and skills to be responsive to the needs of IAAOC members and to determine how we can grow as an organization through scholarly inquiry, teaching future counselors, and service to reduce the barriers to treatment of those with addictions and offender issues. Thank you for the opportunity to be considered for President-Elect of IAAOC.

SECRETARY

Jessie Huebner

I am Jessie Huebner and am running for the position of IAAOC Secretary. I have a long history of clinical work in the field of addictions and offender treatment. Recently, I completed my doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision and was fortunate to have been involved in IAAOC throughout my doctoral program. Now that I have completed my degree, I would like to maintain my connection to the IAAOC group and specifically would like to take on a great role through a leadership role. I believe that the role of Secretary is a role that both matches with my interest in involvement, current availability, and skills in organization, leadership roles, and writing.

I have been involved in addictions/offender treatment in some manner since completing my Masters in 2010. Even as my career positions may have become broader in the client populations that I served, I have continued to remain actively involved in specialization, continuing education, licensure (LSOTP, LSOE), and advocating for these client populations, most notably for individuals who have perpetrated sexual offenses. My dissertation for my PhD was exploring family-of-origin belief systems for men who have perpetrated sexual offenses. I have been a long-time member of the Association for Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) and enjoyed the closer-knit circle of IAAOC through ACA. I additionally have specific qualifications and experiences relevant to a role in leadership, I am the President of the Board of Directors for a non-profit adult literacy organization near my residence. Therefore, I have experience in different executive positions in this role in leadership meetings, meeting minutes, and non-profit regulations, expectations, and operations. I am a continued advocate for the field of addictions and offender treatment and would love to continue this advocacy and engage in leadership through the role of Secretary for IAAOC for 2023–2024.

Kimberly Curtis

I am running for Secretary with the International Association of Addictions and Offender Counselors (IAAOC). I have been a member of IAAOC for two years and am interested in getting more involved. I am currently a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in the
state of Illinois and a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC). I am working towards receiving my Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) title. I have past experience working at an outpatient substance use clinic where I had a caseload of clients with varying substance use and mental health issues. I currently work in a private practice where I see clients with a variety of mental health issues, maintaining my specialty in substance use. In addition to working, I am currently in my third year of my PhD program in Counselor Education and Supervision at Adler University. I am in the midst of researching for and writing my dissertation that focuses on finding what actually produces therapeutic change that leads to sobriety through applying the Precursors Model of Change.

If I receive the honor of becoming Secretary of IAAOC, my focus will be to expand the knowledge education on addiction and offending counseling to current and future members. I believe I have experience to add depth to conversations, while being open to learning more through fellow committee officers and members.

Reginald W. Holt

Dr. Reginald W. Holt is a tenured Associate Professor, Clinical Professional Counseling Program Coordinator, and Department Chair Elect within the Department of Counselor Education and Family Therapy at Central Connecticut State University. He completed a Ph.D. 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 (ACA, NBCC, IAAOC), which includes working directly with the 2020–2021 President of the American Counseling Association on the ACA Graduate Student Committee, holding leadership positions as the 2019–2020 President of the Connecticut Association of Counselor Education and Supervision, and co-leading the development of a special interest group in addictions counseling for the Connecticut Counseling Association that received a “Best Innovative Practice” award from ACA in 2018. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Advanced Behavioral Health, a leader in the Northeast behavioral health industry that manages mental health and substance abuse services.

Dr. Holt oversees the CACREP-accredited Clinical Professional Counseling program (including the addiction recovery specialization track) and provides graduate level instruction with an emphasis on mindfulness-based strategies for mental health and addictions counseling, which coincides with his research interests and published works. Additionally, he is in the process of finalizing an edited textbook on the treatment of co-occurring mental and substance use disorders with co-editor and author, Dr. Regina Moro (former IAAOC president), which is scheduled to be published in 2023 by Springer Publishing.
GOVERNING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, IAAOC

Angie D Cartwright

As a counselor who works with justice involved populations, I consider IAAOC to be my ACA Division home. Over the last decade I have served IAAOC in a variety of capacities ranging from graduate student member, committee chair, secretary, membership chair, and president. Serving as the IAAOC Governing Council Representative will provide an opportunity for me to continue advocating for both our Division and the underrepresented populations we serve. The information I’ve learned in these roles has allowed me the opportunity to enhance my leadership and advocacy skills in ways that can continue to benefit the Division and our profession. Under my leadership as president, IAAOC implemented a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Taskforce, highlighted the work of researchers from marginalized communities, launched a book club focused on DEI and systemic oppression, and created new scholarships and awards for students and members, and doubled our membership. I am effective with understanding and impacting systems in ways that produce access, inclusion, equity, and belongingness. As the lead on our most 2022 Bylaws revision, I have a firm understanding of where we are and how to give voice to the experiences of our members. If elected, these strengths and proven track record as an IAAOC leader will assist with representing our Division as Governing Council Representative.

International Association for Resilience and Trauma Counseling (IARTC)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Matthew J. Walsh

I have always been filled with wonder and curiosity about the human condition and how an individual or community of people can reach their potential. My initial training did not start as a student of psychology, but as an artist and global traveler. Trying to articulate the lived experience of joy, suffering, and perseverance through paint or clay was my foundation and introduction to trauma work. My research interests explore how traumatic experiences can often lead to a darkening or interrupted imagination and meaning making.

I am a community engaged researcher who focuses on community trauma from a Bio-ecological perspective and transgenerational/historical trauma theory. My dissertation was developed into a dynamic collaborative model for community development and wellbeing called Trauma Informed Community Development (TICD) in collaboration with the Neighborhood Resilience Project in Pittsburgh, PA. The objective of TICD is to help revitalize trauma-affected communities by establishing and promoting healthy, healing micro-communities. TICD and the Neighborhood Residence Project over the last 10 years has generated national and international interest. Cohorts from around the nation have attended our annual weeklong TICD training institute. I worked in Higher Education for 20 years as a psychotherapist, supervisor, adjunct faculty member, campus minister, and community engagement coordinator. In addition to the TICD trainings, I have been the subject matter expert for the creation of multiple trauma-informed workshops and trainings for departments of Human Services in multiple states. I currently serve as the CCO of Oasis Mental Health Applications.
If elected, President-Elect, I will bring my diverse experience, community engaged researcher focus, and social justice framework to enhance and grow the vision of IARTC. I will be a stalwart advocate for novel and creative approaches to improving trauma-informed practices worldwide through ongoing counselor development, advocacy, and culturally sensitive pathways to healing and resilience.

Military and Government Counseling Association (MGCA)

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Elizabeth Burgin

I am honored to accept the nomination for MGCA president. Both as a member of the military community and as a professional counselor, I am committed to improving access and efficacy of mental health services for military populations. I have been an active member of MGCA for 6 years, as a member of the task force to develop the Exemplary Practices for Military Populations and more recently as the secretary for the board. As a clinician, I have had the privilege of working with many military-connected clients and to partner with organizations, including the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, and the Center for Deployment Psychology to develop clinical programs, conduct needs assessment, and provide resources to fellow counselors. If elected to serve as the president for MGCA, my priority will be to create opportunities for members to access trainings, network with other military-serving counselors, and engage with advocacy initiatives.

SECRETARY

Taqueena Quintana

I am honored for the opportunity to run for Secretary of the Military and Government Counseling Association (MGCA). I am currently an Associate Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Antioch University-New England. Additionally, I am counselor supervisor and licensed professional counselor and have served military populations in various capacities for over a decade. I am a licensed professional counselor in Georgia and the District of Columbia and currently own a private practice where I provide telemental health counseling services to military servicemembers, spouses and veterans. Previously, I served as a school counselor with the Department of Defense Education Activity, where I supported military families both stateside and overseas. I am proud military spouse and am heavily engaged in scholarship, with presentations, research and publications dedicated to counseling military populations.

I have served in active roles within various organizations including the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC), the American Counseling Association (ACA) and the European Branch of the American Counseling Association (EB-ACA). Through my service to the profession, I have served in leadership roles, developed strong relationships with colleagues, supervisees, students and mentees, supported conference planning nationally and internationally, contributed to new initiatives and voted on various policies. I hope to expand my leadership skills through MGCA as Secretary.

The Secretary is a critical component of any professional association—commitment
to organization, management, preparation, communication and efficiency is key to the association's day-to-day functioning. MGCA is my professional home and I would like to serve as Secretary because I want to support and represent our organization on a wider scale. If elected, I will support the objectives that align with the mission of MGCA and help our organization to continue to make an impact on the counseling profession.

Thank you for your consideration.

Roxanne Agnew

It is an honor to be nominated for the Secretary position for the Military / Government Counseling Association. I served 8 years in active-duty military. During these 8 years, I gained progressive experience beginning as records maintenance clerk. I was then assigned as the Senior Personnel Section NCO, managing, and supervising all aspects of military human resources and personnel actions as well as managing a Unit Medical Readiness program. In my final assignment as Personnel Strength Manager, I executed reoccurring personnel inventory and managed assignments for over 800 geographically dispersed servicemembers. My highest achievements were winning both Battalion and Brigade level Soldier of the Year. I was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal (often reserved for higher ranking non-commissioned officers) for outstanding leadership during my second deployment which was split between Iraq and Afghanistan. Like so many other veterans, my service was overshadowed by some of the darker moments that can happen in the military, I survived varying degrees of MST, PTSD, and other mental and physical injuries. I have overcome many of these struggles through a strong faith, self-motivation, and a strong support system. Post-military, I worked in Army Retirement/ Transition Services and currently work as legal assistant for the Social Security Administration. I am in the Master of Science in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling program at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. I have a strong interest in military and veteran outreach and assisting this population with reintegrating into civilian culture, as well as informing veterans of the programs and services are available to them thru the VA and helping them to navigate these complex systems. I believe my combination of passion, experience and education would be an asset to the board. I look forward to participating in important conversations regarding the unique needs and interests of our servicemembers.

GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Stefan Vasic

This past spring, I graduated with my Master’s in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, with a specialization in working with military connected clients, from William & Mary. This fall I will continue my journey at William & Mary in the PhD Counselor Education and Supervision program, while working as a graduate assistant for the military and veterans masters program. In addition, I will serve as a research assistant with the Mcguire Research Institute which works out of the Richmond, VA Hunter Holmes Mcguire VA medical center. I also see clients as a Resident in Counseling in a private group practice in Richmond, Virginia.

As representative, I would work to bolster membership among graduate students, increase programming and content geared toward trainees, and advocate for our division as a whole to the greater counseling profession. In collaboration with division leadership I am excited to grow our community and amplify research that helps the military and government community.
Jason Valadez

My name is Jason Valadez, and I am a 24-year United States Army veteran serving as a Non-Commissioned and Commissioned Officer. As a military leader, I witnessed the cumulative effects of combat and peacetime service on the psychological well-being of service members. After retirement, I entered a career in law enforcement with the hope of positively influencing the perception of policing. However, I encountered a dire need for mental health services and providers as many citizens I interacted with suffered from both diagnosed and undiagnosed mental health disorders. I then decided to leave law enforcement and pursue a future as a helper at the College of William and Mary. During my time at William and Mary, I sought out multiple leadership opportunities resulting in my selection to the Honor Council as an appeals board member. Additionally, I was a member of the planning committee for the first annual Summer Symposium hosted by the University of Central Florida and William and Mary.

As a graduate student representative, I hope to assist the MGCA in promoting the counseling profession, educational programs, and research benefiting Armed Services members, employees of governmental agencies, and family members. Having a national voice would enable me to achieve one of the first steps in becoming a leader within the profession.

Hannah Carter

I am beyond grateful to be considered to serve as the 2023–2024 MGCA Graduate Student Representative. My vision for my service is to aid in the professional development of future military counselors to improve services to our expansive and diverse military population. I received my master’s in Rehabilitation Counseling from Georgia State University (GSU) in 2020. I am currently a second-year doctoral student in the Counselor Education and Practice doctoral program at GSU. Additionally, I am a born Navy brat whose family holds generations of service in the Navy and Marines. As a counselor with a passion for serving the military, I am aware of the hurdles counselors encounter in being able to provide services to military populations and their families. Briefly, I will share how my leadership experiences may bring something to your Graduate Representative position with MGCA.

I volunteer for an organization called Objective Zero, where I connect with several service members and veterans experiencing suicidal ideations and behaviors. I am also the President-elect and Professional Development Task Force Chair for our local honor society chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, Chi Epsilon. Serving in these positions has helped me facilitate opportunities that strengthen our students’ professional identities, engage in meaningful counseling and educational initiatives, and increase awareness of the needs of service members through community building through respect and cultural humility.

As Graduate Representative for MGCA, my primary goal would be to continue connecting graduate counseling students and nonmilitary community members if elected. Through this level of connectedness, we can increase our knowledge of military culture and understand the unique challenges military populations face. I am a proud and passionate member of MGCA and look forward to continued growth alongside our community.

Jerry Pierson

As a current graduate student at Capella University and an active duty member of the Air Force, I have had experience serving on many organizational boards. In one instance
in the military I served as president of an organization that helped oversee enlisted and officer personnel in a deployed environment, ensuring for their quality of life. My more recent experience involves serving as the secretary for CSI at Capella. The reason I am seeking the office is because I want to serve and represent this organization. I look to make a difference and want to promote the organization among other graduate students.

DIRECTOR

Kord Basnight
Candidate information not available.

Shon D. Smith
I am seeking the position of Director, on the board of the Military Government and Counseling Association (MGCA).

I am a United States Army Reserves Veteran of 15 years and have been deployed to Africa, Afghanistan, Iraq, and stateside. Additionally, I have conducted several humanitarian missions in Central and South America all as a Combat Medic. As a member of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, I serve on the Legislative Affairs Committee.

I have been a professional counselor for over 28 years, a clinical supervisor for 25 years, and a Counselor Educator for 22 years. My primary research interest area addresses the intersection of mental health disparities and public policy and I work with military personnel and their families, specifically with Reservist and National Guard.

I have served the counseling profession in several leadership roles on a state, regional, and national level through elected office, committee involvement or membership. It would be an honor to serve on the Board of the MGCA. As a Director of the MGCA, I will uphold the responsibilities of this position outlined in MGCA's bylaws with fidelity and fiduciary responsibility. I will serve the members of MGCA and work collectively with the other leaders on the board with the seven Army LDRSHIP values.

I thank you for your support.

Hannah M. Coyt
Hannah M. Coyt, Ph.D., LPCC-S, NCC, CCMHC has been a licensed counselor in Kentucky since 2000. She has worked in the mental health field for over 21 years with various populations including veterans, first responders, SMI adults, children, adolescents, geriatric clients, families, couples, and substance use. Additionally, Dr. Coyt has been a board-approved supervisor since 2001 and serves on the Kentucky LPC licensure board. Dr. Coyt serves as an assistant professor at Western Kentucky University, as well as an adjunct role for Lindsey Wilson College. Her research areas and presentations include topics such as working with first responders, grief, addictions, and suicide. Her current research interests include grief work, and barriers to law enforcement officers seeking mental health services. Dr. Coyt also works as a counselor in a part-time capacity, specializing in trauma work for first responders and clients dealing with grief and loss. Dr. Coyt is a trained EMDR provider.

I am interested in serving the MGCA division of ACA because I have a passion for
serving those who have served. Veterans and first responders, along with their families, deserve quality care within the counseling profession. In working with these populations over the past few years, it seems that there is often a stigma associated with seeking mental health services. I want to work to reduce that barrier and work toward an environment where our veterans and first responders feel supported by the counseling profession, and therefore openly seek the services they may need. Being the wife of a veteran and the mother of a soldier, my love for these populations runs deep.

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

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

**Stacy A. Pinto**

Thank you for considering my candidacy to serve as President-Elect for SAIGE. I am currently the Program Director for and a Clinical Assistant Professor in the School Counseling program at the University of Denver, where I have also held several leadership positions, both elected and appointed, at various institutional levels. These positions have included service toward the broad and identity-based mentoring and development of institutional faculty and developing counselors. My scholarly work to-date has included a focus on language/labeling and intersectional identities within LGBTGEQIAP+ communities across the lifespan. I have been involved with SAIGE in various capacities over the last decade, including serving in state leadership positions and on committees for both strategic planning and division conferences. I also serve as a member of the editorial board for the Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling, toward expanding timely dissemination of knowledge and competencies needed to effectively serve LGBTGEQIAP+ communities. My skillsets accrued from over ten years of work in higher education administration would help me to fortify the work that SAIGE has been doing since its inception. In recognition of the nature of a volunteer-driven organization and our responsibilities as leaders in the social justice arena, I hope to focus on continuity, organization, and collaboration through a constructive lens. As a lesbian woman, the opportunity to serve in this capacity would not only allow me to continue the work of a valuable organization within the counseling discipline, but it would also allow me the opportunity to pay-it-forward to a community that is a significant part of my life. If selected to serve by the SAIGE membership, I look forward to collaborating with existing leadership and members to sustain and advance the work of this organization over the coming years.

**TRUSTEE OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Mike Sauer**

Candidate information not available.

**Belky Perez**

I am qualified for the position, Trustee of Membership, because I have experience in working with groups and organizations in roles that have required clear, professional
communication. I am enthusiastic about adding to the field of mental health and psychology. A leadership position with SAIGE would involve interactions with the Board of Directors. I have similar experience as a faculty senate member and doctoral chair. These roles have entailed communicating on policy change, providing recommendations for institutional and curriculum improvement, and offering feedback on how to increase faculty and learner engagement. Additionally, I have worked in the field of mental health for several years now, specializing in work with the LGBTQIA+ community. I hope this role will be another way to give back to a community I am very passionate about.

Sandra Gavin

I earned my PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision at Northern Illinois University May 2021. I am an Assistant Professor of Counselor Education at Adams State University (ASU), a Licensed Professional Counselor in Colorado and Illinois, and a National Certified Counselor. I have a wide range of experiences working in private practice, university settings, and a private school. I present regularly at national and regional conferences. I am always engaged in research which usually focuses on better quality services to LGBTQIA+ clients and increasing counselor’s counseling self-efficacy to work with this population. Currently I am in private practice working primarily with individuals who describe themselves under the LGBTQIA+ umbrella. In addition to my role as an Assistant Professor, I am the Testing Coordinator for our department in which I am responsible for developing, coordinating, and implementing our comprehensive exam. I coordinate with students about our comps exam and licensure exams. Further, I’ve been an executive leader on several committees that support DEI advocacy, excellence in counseling, and initiatives in these committees to increase membership and engagement. As the Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) Co-Chapter Faculty Advisor for Alpha Sigma Chi’s chapter, some of my roles include supporting the leadership team in policy and procedures, membership enrollment, initiatives to enhance counseling competencies, and budget expenditures. I am serving as an executive committee member on ASU’s Equity Board in which I collaborate in creating a university community for inclusion, equity, leadership, and opportunity. Some of these roles include advocating for policy change, increasing community buy-in for DEI work, and advocating for sponsorship for several initiatives. I believe I would be a good fit for The Membership Trustee position because of my professional background, service on different committees, and dedication to better serve LGBTQIA+ people.

GRADUATE STUDENT TRUSTEE

Don Allensworth-Davies

I am currently a graduate student in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Cleveland State University. As a graduate student myself, a cis gender gay man, as well as one who currently advises/teaches graduate students as a university health sciences professor I am very passionate about supporting and advocating for sexual and gender minority counselors in training as well LGBTQIA+ education for all counselors. While new to the counseling discipline, I have worked as a graduate educator and researcher in public health for the past ten years with a primary focus on LGBTQIA+ cancer disparities. As someone who has participated in the past with LGBTQIA+ divisions as part of national public health organizations, as a counselor in training I was very excited to discover SAIGE as part of ACA and this position appeared to be a perfect fit for my background and professional interest in working with LGBTQIA+ communities as part of my counseling career.
Stephen Stewart

I am currently a PhD student in the Counsellor Educator doctoral program at the University of Missouri–St Louis (UMSL), and I’m the first generation in my family to attend college. In addition to my studies, I am the Assistant Director of the Counselling and Social Advocacy Center at UMSL, where I’m a practicing counselor specializing in Gender-Expansive clients and those experiencing traumatic grief. I am a provisionally licensed and Nationally Certified Counselor who also operates a private practice where I specialize in counseling LGBTGEQIAP+ individuals living with HIV/AIDS disease. I have completed a Master’s in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and nearly completed a second in Clinical Psychology. I have specialized mental health certificate training in trauma-informed care from Harvard Medical School and Harvard Program for Refugee Trauma. I am a proudly out gay man and have been active in the LGBTGEQIAP+ community for over 30 years. During this time, I’ve been busy as a vocal defender and advocate of HIV education, prevention, and treatment. Serving this community is my passion as a caring human and counseling professional. My research interests are centered on the development, refinement, and delivery of holistic models of mental health care for those within the Gay and Transgender communities who are newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. The Transgender community is especially hard-hit by HIV, and we must, must, must do more to address this fact to end the epidemic. I am seeking this position because I see the opportunity to serve as the Graduate Student Trustee as a way to lend my voice of advocacy to fellow students while contributing to our community as individuals seeking professional counseling and career development. Your very kind support and vote are sincerely appreciated.

Mel Mason Passler

My life up until this point has been far from straightforward, with many random intersecting paths that go in no explicit direction. Prior to the start of my current graduate program, I had always felt that LGBTQ+ topics were important to me, which is the reason I pursued an LGBT Studies minor during my undergraduate career, but did not see a feasible way to incorporate that knowledge into my professional career. Upon entrance into my current program, Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Caldwell University, I realized that my prior knowledge of LGBTQ+ history, theory, and experiences were valuable to the field, which brings me to the path I am on now. As a trans non-binary person myself, I feel as though I am able to make connections to others in this field and help a significantly underserved population that is in desperate need of adequate access to both physical and mental health services. I have been working hard to make connections with services provided at the LiveWell Center in Monmouth County and the PROUD Center in Somerset to further these goals. Additionally, I have created a series of guidelines and standards for diverse client intake that I am hoping to expand on and research further so our community feels less ostracized during this process. This position of Graduate Student Trustee would offer me greater access to achieve the goals I have set forth and get others involved to serve this community. I hope to keep the connections I make during this time with me so that when I graduate PA school, I am able to further bridge the gap between the medical and mental health communities.

Jessica Yanson

Candidate information not available.
Ross Spears

Ross Spears is a Doctoral Candidate from the University of Texas at San Antonio pursuing a degree in Counselor Education and Supervision. Due to his own personal history with restorative therapy, Ross is passionate about finding ways to encourage cultural humility among counselors-in-training through both research and creative teaching strategies. He is hopeful that by emphasizing this focus, upcoming counselors will be equipped and knowledgeable to provide efficient, ethical, and efficacious care to clients. Ross is currently heading and partnering with several LGBTGEQIAP+ projects that examine counselors-in-training’s LGBT-specific stereotypes and biases as well as the intersectionality between faith and sexuality of these populations. Ross is excited for the potential opportunity to serve as SAIGE’s Graduate Student Trustee.

Devan Livaudais

I am in the second year of my M.A. in Clinical Mental Health program at Saybrook University. As a queer man, I aim to provide trauma-informed counseling to LGBTQ2IA+ adolescents and adults to provide a safe space for healing and personal growth. My ultimate goal is to open up a queer center that can offer various services to my community and beyond, with counseling, education, and advocacy at its core.

I co-founded and am President of my university’s first queer student organization, The Queer Alliance Collective, which aims to foster a brave space where education, learning, and connectivity can emerge. I have helped organize several speaker events that have covered topics from gender identity to global queer issues. This group is still growing and is something I hold very dear. I hope to bring this environment to multiple spaces, as I feel that queer support is severely lacking globally.

I believe I am an excellent fit for SAIGE’s Graduate Student Trustee because I lead with empathy, can come up with creative solutions quickly, and am genuinely passionate about serving my local and global queer communities. It would be an absolute honor to have a more intimate role in SAIGE’s incredible work within and outside our communities. I believe I would be a great asset to carrying out that work.

Makayla Stanislas

As a current graduate student, I have a contemporary understanding of the demands of post-graduate degrees, particularly for students working alongside their studies. During my degree program I have facilitated meetings designed to expand the scope of understanding of current students by intentionally bringing in resources beyond school-endorsed material. Furthermore, I regularly work with faculty to highlight areas for improvement within the program based on feedback of classmates. These and with other actions taken during my time as a student are fueled by a clear lack of adequate representation in the primary materials used to bolster our counseling journeys. It is imperative that graduates leave their programs with the confidence and technical ability to work with clients of all demographics, prior to creating specialties. As the Graduate Student Trustee, I seek to provide a space for students to deepen their understanding of the intersections that SAIGE represents, along with the nuances that racial, cultural, health-based, and socioeconomic identities bring.