

Meet the Candidates for **Student Governing Council** 2021–2022



Kervins Clement

I am currently in the Ph.D. program for Counseling and Counselor Education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. As a member of the American Counseling Association, I had the opportunity to attend several conferences where I learned from leaders in counseling profession. My goal as a Graduate Student Representative is to promote respect for human dignity and diversity. I plan on achieving this goal by creating an environment where graduate student can obtain mentors, gain professional opportunities, and learn from premier leaders in the counseling profession.

In 2019-2020, I had the privilege of serving as the Graduate Representative for the International Association of Addictions and Offender Counselors (IAAOC). In this role, I lead the graduate committee of the association. I was also able to increase our graduate student enrollment. During my term, I attended Executive Board Meetings and any relevant subcommittees. I also led several projects to increase awareness about IAAOC and the mission that drives the association. I loved this role because I had the opportunity to work alongside great leaders within the counseling profession and I also grew as an upcoming professional. My experience as the Graduate Representative of IAAOC will help me succeed in my new role.

Ashlei Rabess

It is with immense gratitude that I accept nomination to serve as the 2021–2023 ACA Student Representative. Having been a student in the counseling profession for the past 5 years, I am deeply knowledgeable about and empathetic of the challenges that we face as counselors- and counselor educators-in-training. I believe that this is imperative for someone seeking to serve in this role.

Moreover, I have served in various leadership roles with an intentional effort to create change for students 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); (3) President of the Chi Epsilon Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) (2020–2021); and (4) CSI Leadership Intern (2020–2021). Through these experiences, I have enthusiastically served both masters and doctoral students at local, state, and national levels while carefully navigating challenging topics, circumstances, and decisions alongside professional council members. One thing that has remained central to my student leadership 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 students. Furthermore, I believe that given the current public health, social, and political climates, students (particularly marginalized and vulnerable students) are impacted in a plethora of ways that the ACA Governing Council members, including the newly elected Student Representative, have the power to mitigate. It is crucial to elect a Student Representative who: (a) has substantial leadership experience working with governing councils; and (b) openly acknowledges and acts upon the injustices that all students face. For these reasons, I humbly ask for your support in my quest to serve you and all other ACA student members as the 2021–2023 ACA Student Representative.

Jennifer Robertson

Thank you for the opportunity to apply. As a graduate student at Northwestern University I led the LGBTQIA Counseling Community, was nominated by my peers as a Student Representative, acted as a Student Ambassador for two years and performed Graduate Assistant and Teaching Assistant roles working with Dr. Michele Kerulis.

I am running for the position because I am passionate about engagement, representation, and equality. I have dedicated much of my work and research to developing a new Gender Inclusive Counseling™ model that helps mental health professionals build their competency working with individuals that are gender expansive/nonbinary.

If chosen for the position, I would bring my strong organization and management skills, tenacious dedication, and tireless commitment to the organization and its members.

Andrea Stallworth

By way of introduction my name is Andrea Y. Stallworth, MA, MBA. I recently received my master's in clinical mental health from Northwestern University and I am currently pursuing my Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervisor at Adler University. Prior to transitioning into this field, I worked in corporate America in the field of Human Resources for 20 years. Over the course of my career, I became known as a subject matter expert in compliance, customer service, employee relations, and executive development.

My previous work experience has taught me how to work with people in all levels of an organization and to keep their confidences. It has granted me insight to understand viewpoints from the corporation standpoint as well as from an employee stand point when creating and updating policy. It has helped me learn how to bridge the gap between the two and come up with resolutions that benefit everyone. I have also managed associate annual review boards and was able to make substantial recommendations for process improvements within the business models.

I served on the regional compliance council where I created innovative ways to ensure that employees were aware of changes and remained up to date with compliance training. I also ensured that the locations where we did business were always up to date with policy and legal standards. If elected to be the ACA Graduate Student Representative, I would work in the same manner by proactively ensuring that everyone is aware of the importance of the code of ethics and creating modern ways to seamlessly integrate ethics into our everyday work.

Equipped with the knowledge I have received as a counselor and my past experience, it would be my honor to represent you as your Graduate Student Representative to the ACA.

Helen Starkweather

While we continue to face many changes in the midst of social unrest, the Covid-19 pandemic and the concomitant rise in telehealth, the possibilities of a new world beckons. As a mid-career adjuster having spent more than 25 years in the workplace, I bring a wide range of experiences and perspectives to managing change and counseling clients — work rooted in the values and practices of humanism and social justice. I recently completed my master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Marymount University. Now, as a first-year doctoral candidate in George Washington University's PhD in Counseling program, I continue to learn and provide clinical care online. For many ACA student members, the rise of telehealth is now integral to our education, development, and growth as a counselors and counselor educators.

This student representative perspective is critical as the ACA Governing Council completes its current strategic plan in 2021 and looks ahead to its future and that of the counseling profession. To support that, I also have a background in organization development and non-profit leadership, having designed and delivered organizational strategic initiatives, programming, evaluation and professional development. Most recently, I served as a 2019–2020 Emerging Leader with the Association for Humanistic Counseling (AHC), as well as a member of Marymount University's Chi Sigma Iota chapter. I am a National Certified Counselor (NCC) working towards my LPC licensure (MD).

As the ACA continues its work of unifying the counseling profession in the midst of profound social and technological changes, I bring a drive for advocacy, and a focus on communication, collaboration, social justice and inclusive leadership practices and processes. I plan to communicate with student members about ACA resources and seek feedback from them so as to ensure that their diverse voices are included and heard on the Governing Council.

John Mitchell Waters

I believe that I am an excellent candidate for the ACA Graduate Student Representative due to my clinical, research, supervisory, and pedagogical experience in the counseling field. This position would provide me with the opportunity to grow as a counselor and promote student interest in ACA by developing and enhancing networks that will further the counseling field in both research and practice. Because supporting new and learning counselors is one of my greatest passions in the field, I truly believe that I can be an asset to the ACA Governing Council.

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor with a Mental Health Service Provider designation and a second-year doctoral student in Counselor Education and Supervision at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. I received my Master's degree in Clinical

Mental Health Counseling in 2016 and specialize in trauma therapy with a wide variety of populations. I have four years of clinical experience and love providing a safe place for healing and recovery. I am currently serving as a practicum supervisor for Master's students at VCU and am teaching an ethics and professional orientation course. I am also involved in several ongoing research projects involving counselor burnout, trauma, and religious and spiritual identity in counseling. I am currently serving as the secretary for the international counseling academic and professional honor society, Chi Sigma Iota, Omega Lambda Iota chapter. I have also presented at various conferences in the Mid-Atlantic region and plan to present at several more in the coming days, including ACA, ACES, AARC, and SACES. With many students learning how to provide counseling services in the middle of a pandemic, the need for support, resources, and an advocate with experience is all the greater. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Jennifer Wills

I have had the pleasure and honor of serving on the board of NECA as the graduate student representative. In addition to my doctoral studies, I have worked with NECA leadership to update the Global Career Development Facilitation certification curriculum. As the graduate student representative for NECA, I am charged with being an advocate for graduate student interests. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a new virtual medium for graduate student representatives, in general, to advocate. I believe that I would be able to better serve the counseling community as well as the graduate student population within the counseling community through the American Counseling Association's Governing Council. Providing a voice for graduate students while also advocating for important counseling issues would be the main focus of my outreach work if I were elected to the Governing Council. I look forward to serving with and for the counseling community and the graduate student populations.