

*Department of Counselor Education*

*The College of New Jersey*

**ANNUAL REPORT**

*Academic Year 2014-2015*

**A. OUR MISSION CONTINUES**

The Department of Counselor Education at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) offers students rigorous, high-quality graduate programs of study in school counseling, clinical mental health counseling (generalist practice or addiction specialization), and marriage, couple, and family counseling and therapy. As a unit within the School of Education, the department embraces the mission of Creating Agents of Change, the overarching goal of the Conceptual Framework of the Professional Education Unit at the TCNJ.

The mission of every program in the department is to create exemplary counseling professionals prepared to enrich the lives of the people of New Jersey and the nation through counseling and service and to provide a national model of the preparation of counselors. The department is committed to creating and supporting an inclusive learning community and to serving students from diverse backgrounds who seek initial and advanced degrees in counseling.

Guided by the *Standards of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)*, which emphasize the traditions, values, and objectives of professional counseling programs, the faculty of the Department of Counselor Education engage students in the developmental process of becoming professional counselors who will address the needs of the people they serve in an ethical and competent manner.

**B. DEPARTMENT IMPACT in 2014-2015:**

*Student Recognition at the national, state, and regional level*

The Department of Counselor Education is proud of the recognition that our students are receiving at the national, regional, and state levels. Following are a few highlights of these achievements:

- Two of our students, Mary Williams and Chinasa Tyler, were recipients of 2015 National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship – Addictions Counselors (NBCC MFP-AC). This fellowship is designed to support graduate counseling students who are committed to supporting youth from underserved groups. Upon graduation, both Mary and Chinasa plan to serve youth dealing with substance abuse and co-occurring disorders.

- Debby Deroian, a student in our Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling and Therapy Program, was selected as the scholarship recipient by the Southern Chapter of New Jersey Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (SNJAMFT). SNJAMF is a subdivision of New Jersey Association for Marriage and Family Therapy which is a division of American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. Debby is currently serving as the graduate student liaison to the SNJAMFT. Among her responsibilities, she conveys pertinent information regarding the continuing education programs and membership information to fellow students.
- One of our students, Carolynne (Lina) Lewis-Arevalo, received a scholarship through NJPN's *Partial Reimbursement for a College Course Related to Addiction or Addiction Counseling* Program, which is funded by the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

### *The Impact of the TCNJ Clinic*

In November 2005, the Department of Counselor Education established The TCNJ Clinic, a community based clinic, to provide low cost supervised family therapy, counseling and training serving Mercer County and surrounding communities. The Clinic's mission is to offer family therapy and individual counseling that: 1) provides opportunities for both graduate and post-graduate students to further develop their counseling and therapy skills while addressing the needs of individual clients and families, and 2) meets the changing social and emotional needs of those in the larger community.

In 2014-2015, The TCNJ Clinic continued to provide high quality counseling services for clients and their families who were referred from local school districts and existing service providers in the area. While serving as a state-of-the-art training facility for select graduate students, the TCNJ Clinic also continued to provide TCNJ's *Employee Assistance Program (EAP)*, and EAP services to two Townships within Mercer County as well as a local nonprofit. Importantly, the SMART Recovery meetings that are held two evenings a week for the larger community have continued to be a stable referral source for local agencies, as well as a terrific training opportunity for clinic interns related to addiction recovery work. SMART Recovery is a recognized resource for addiction recovery by the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Center of Health Care Evaluations, The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), US Department of Health and Human Services, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

In the spring of 2014, the TCNJ Clinic received a contract to become the Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC) for Mercer County. The role of the Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC) is to improve the driving behavior of individuals who have been identified as having some alcohol or drug involvement in connection with the operation of a motor vehicle or vessel. The IDRC provides services to Mercer County residents or other individuals assigned by the Intoxicated Driver Program. This program has continued to bring experiential learning opportunities to our counselor education students.

This spring (2015) we received a 5 year grant (\$250,000/yr) to bring Recovery Support and Environment Change strategies regarding alcohol and other drug use to campus. TCNJ Clinic students will work with these students clinically, and one of our students will be the live-in recovery house mentor.

*Other Impactful, Departmental Community Outreach Initiatives:*

The department's faculty have been involved in a number of community-based outreaches throughout the year. One core faculty member, along with two alumni of the department, are offering the Mental Health Facilitator Program, which is developed by NBCC-International, to interested organizations in the community. Another core faculty member offered Mental Health First Aid training to undergraduate students as well as local K-12 teachers. Yet another faculty member works in conjunction with a county based counseling agency that provides services for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. Other faculty were instrumental in bringing Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT) to our campus for TCNJ Clinic staff, faculty, students, current practicing SACs and school counselors in Mercer County School Districts, and targeted practicing community counselors.

One of TCNJ's strategic priorities emphasizes integrating both curricular and co-curricular learning experiences. It calls for defining, identifying and prioritizing signature-learning experiences that define TCNJ's unique value. Signature learning experiences integrate scholarly and deep learning, building leadership skills and developing social/global awareness. This objective also calls for ensuring a broad range of student participation in these experiences.

Our Community Engaged Learning efforts in AY 2013-2014 have included:

- Students in COUN 551 (Substance Abuse and Addiction; Individual, Family and Society) volunteer a full day of service at Prevention Point, a needle exchange program for opioid dependent individuals and sex workers.
- Students in COUN 515 (Statistics and Research) participate in the Trenton Violence Reduction Strategy baseline data collection event as part of the course.
- Students in COUN 552 (Prevention Strategies for Schools and Communities) are partnered with local prevention programs serving youth in the Mercer County community and draft a literature review for their partner on best practice in prevention efforts in the area of service they provide.
- Students in COUN 675 (Group Counseling) offer group facilitation to the Bonner students themselves to support their work in the community. As one of the core values of TCNJ is "The College promotes wellness and fosters the development of the whole person", our provision of this service to Bonner students works to sustain this value and maximize the benefit of service for these students.

- Students who participate in our study abroad program in Portugal go on a series of site visits to learn about the process of decriminalizing drug use and how such policy is implemented effectively. They also meet with the European Commission on Drug Addiction, an entity of the EU. Additionally, students who were enrolled in non-addictions courses participated in a site visit to a career counseling agency as well as attended a presentation provided by the European Board for Certified Counselors (EBCC).

### **C. STUDENT AWARDS in AY 2014-2015:**

Each year our department selects student recipients for a number of different awards. The following students received their respective awards at the Chi Sigma Iota International Honor Society, Alpha Epsilon dinner and induction ceremony that occurred on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 2015.

The **Douglas Burroughs Professional Commitment Award** is intended to honor a counselor education student who has demonstrated outstanding service to the community or exhibited courage or perseverance in pursuit of graduate studies. This award was created in the memory of the late Douglas Burroughs, a former TCNJ counseling student and campus leader, who overcame numerous hardships for his long quest to complete his graduate degree in counseling. The 2014 Douglas Burroughs Professional Commitment Award was given to: Mr. Thomas Callahan III.

The **Erika Pluta-Diamond Award** honors a counseling student who has demonstrated leadership in the classroom and has expressed an interest and dedication to helping women. This award was created in memory of the late Erika Pluta-Diamond, a former TCNJ counseling student who was an avid advocate for oppressed women. This year the Erika Pluta-Diamond Award was given to Ms. Edwidge Paul.

The **Social Justice and Advocacy Award** honors a graduating counseling student who has demonstrated a serious commitment to social justice and equity through the development and/or implementation of a service, program or social policy that meets the needs of, and has had a major impact upon, the health and well-being of a culturally diverse group. This year's recipient of the Social Justice and Advocacy Award is Ms. Marissa Rogers.

The **Student Scholar of the Year Award** is intended to honor a counseling student who has demonstrated outstanding academic performance and scholarship in counseling. The 2014 Student Scholar of the Year award was given to: Ms. Katelyn Hoobler.

The **Outstanding Counseling Student of the Year** award is intended to honor a graduating counseling student who has demonstrated outstanding academic performance and counseling skills as demonstrated by making significant and/or creative contributions as an intern, performing at an independent level significantly beyond what is expected of an intern, creating and implementing new programs at the internship site; or responding to difficult, complex and

challenging client situations with exemplary expertise. This year's recipient of the Outstanding Counseling Student of the Year Award is: Ms. Jocelyn Cooper.

The Alpha Epsilon Chapter of the Chi Sigma Iota Honor Society also offers several scholarships to current and graduating students:

The **Altruism Scholarship** is offered each year to a graduating counselor education student who has demonstrated dedication in supporting others through volunteerism, altruism, and advocacy in the field of counseling. This year's recipient of the **Chi Sigma Iota Altruism Scholarship** was Ms. Chloe Cogavin.

The **Pam Douglas McElroy Memorial Scholarship** honors a counseling student who has returned to school or changed career paths and who exhibits perseverance, resilience, enthusiasm, and empathy. This year's recipient was Ms. Debby Doroian.

#### **D. PROGRAM OUTCOMES: Vital Statistics**

a. Number of graduates from 2014-2015:

10	CACREP-Accredited <i>Clinical Mental Health Counseling</i> Program (Master of Arts in Counseling)
5	CACREP-Accredited <i>Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling and Therapy</i> Program (Master of Arts in Counseling)
18	CACREP-Accredited <i>School Counseling</i> Program (Master of Arts in Counseling)
3	Post-Masters <i>Educational Specialist Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy</i>
14	Completed all of the educational requirements for the <i>Student Assistance Coordinator in the Schools Certificate with Advanced Standing (SAC CEAS)</i>

TOTALS: 33 MA, 3 EdS, and 14 SAC CEAS

b. Completion rate: Students admitted into the CACREP-accredited MA programs have up to six (6) years to complete their degrees. 67% completed their MA degrees (Breakdown by program: 83% for School Counseling, 73% for Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and 45% for Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling and Therapy Program)

c. National Counselor Exam (NCE) pass rates: 97%

(May 2014 graduates who chose to take this exam in order to be nationally-certified. 2015 results are not yet available.)

- d. Job placement rate: For May 2014 graduates, 98% of those responding to surveys (72% response rate) who actively sought jobs are currently employed in the field (Breakdown by program: 100% for School Counseling, 93% for Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and 100% for Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling and Therapy Program)

## **E. CONCLUSION:**

Students, faculty, and community members have been working together to make an impact on our campus and local communities, as well as the counseling field. In addition to the aforementioned information, our graduate students have partnered with faculty to publish in textbooks and peer-reviewed journals, as well as present at conferences in our field. A number of our graduate students also worked with faculty to develop and present Self-Disclosure training to all TCNJ faculty and staff regarding how to handle reports of sexual assault and other interpersonal power-based violence. Faculty were also instrumental in bringing Jackson Katz, an anti-sexist activist and educator, to campus.

We have an active chapter (Alpha Epsilon) of Chi Sigma Iota, which facilitated important services for students such as a peer mentoring program, scholarships, networking events, and workshops on job search strategies and preparing for the National Counselor Examination. This organization continues to host an end of the year celebratory event for new inductees, award recipients, and their families.

Our department maintains a strong commitment to diversity and cultural competence. In an effort to provide more diverse learning opportunities for students, this year we expanded our study abroad course offerings in Portugal. In addition to the three additions courses offered in previous years, students had the opportunity to take Multicultural Counseling, Career Counseling, and Human Sexuality courses abroad. The department also worked on expanding blended learning opportunities for students.

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