

Department of Counselor Education

The College of New Jersey

ANNUAL REPORT

Academic Year 2016-2017

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 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 around the globe through counseling and service and to provide a national model for 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 engages 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.

DEPARTMENT IMPACT in 2016-2017:

Faculty from the department continue to work as teacher scholars, presenting at national and international conferences and publishing in top tier counseling journals, publishing books and successfully authoring grant proposals.

In the fall of 2016, we received a grant Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) which provided 21 School Counseling students with \$10,000 living stipends to complete their internships in underserved schools and participate in training related to trauma informed school counseling.

The Department of Counselor Education has also been awarded the contract to continue running the Mercer County Intoxicated Driver Resource center. In addition to providing relevant coursework and support to those who have received a DUI, the program allows our students the

opportunity to gain valuable additions specific experience working **with** program clients. In addition, the program provides financial support for two graduate students per academic year.

Student Recognition

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:

- The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) selected two of our graduates for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program in 2015, 2016. Another student was just selected for this prestigious national fellowship in 2017.
- Two students were selected as Graduate Student Representatives of the New Jersey Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (NJAMFT) in 2016.

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, continue to offer the Mental Health Facilitator Program, which is developed by NBCC-International, to interested organizations in the community. Two other core faculty members offered several Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings to undergraduate students, local K-12 teachers, and community organizations. Another faculty member works in conjunction with a county based counseling agency that provides services for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence while another serves as the program evaluator for a local police department program aimed at supporting youth in crisis.

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 2016-2017 continue to include-

- 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 (Measurement and Evaluation) participated in a call-in event for The Trenton Violence Reduction project and collected baseline data.
- Students in COUN 675 (Group Counseling) offered 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-addiction 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).

STUDENT AWARDS in AY 2016-2017:

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, May 5th 2017.

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 2017 Douglas Burroughs Professional Commitment Award was given to: Jamie Sutton

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 Anna Nase

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 Katie Onitiri-Hageman

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 2017 Student Scholar of the Year award was given to: Kyle Hogan.

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: Brittany Aydelotte.

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 Bridget Anton.

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 Jamie Sutton.

COUNSELING PROGRAM/STUDENT OUTCOMES

a. Number of graduates from 2016-2017 Academic Year:

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

TOTALS: 42 MA, 4 EdS, and 13 SAC CEAS

B. Completion rates

89% for School Counseling

67% for Clinical Mental Health Counseling

57% for Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling and Therapy

c. National Counselor Exam (NCE) pass rate: 93% overall

Program pass rates:

95% for School Counseling

100% for Clinical Mental Health Counseling

80% for Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling and Therapy

d. Job placement rate for May 2016 graduates:

Employment rates by programs are:

88% for School Counseling

86% for Clinical Mental Health Counseling

100% for Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling and Therapy

CONCLUSION:

Our department maintains a strong commitment to diversity and cultural competence. In 2016, the Department of Counselor Education at TCNJ established *the first and only International School Counseling Program accredited by CACREP*. This program began in the summer of 2017 in Lisbon, Portugal with our first cohort of students who live and work in countries all over the world. New Jersey based students will continue to have the opportunity to take courses at our Portugal site in the summer and on our Ewing, NJ 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.

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. We continue to maintain strong connections with our alumni who are making significant contributions to the counseling field and communities in which they live and work.