

Department of Counselor Education

The College of New Jersey

ANNUAL REPORT

Academic Year 2017-2018

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 and clinical mental health counseling (generalist practice or addiction specialization). Effective in the fall of 2018, due to ongoing low enrollment, we are no longer accepting new applications for both the M.A. in Marriage Couple and Family Counseling and Therapy and the Post-Masters Educational Specialist in Marriage and Family Therapy (EdS) programs. Although we will no longer offer the degree concentration, we will continue to offer students in both our Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling programs a number of MCFCT courses, both elective and required.

TCNJ's International School Counseling cohort continues to grow with the first cohort scheduled to graduate in May of 2019. Students from Thailand, China, France, Mexico, Bahrain, The Philippines, Canada, Indonesia, Egypt, and Brazil are currently enrolled.

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.

B. DEPARTMENT IMPACT in 2017-2018:

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), recently selected Joana Couto, of Clark, New Jersey for the NBCC Fellowship Program. As a fellow, Joana will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her counseling work with underserved populations.

Several of our students co-authored journal articles or book chapters with the department faculty members that are currently under review or in press. Additionally, several of our students have presented at local and national level conferences this year.

Faculty in the department continue to be active scholars regularly presenting at national and international conferences, publishing in a wide range of academic journals, and securing grant funding for students and community support initiatives.

A faculty member, Corinne Zupko, has a new book out, *From Anxiety to Love, A Practical Approach for Letting Go of Fear and Finding Inner Peace* (2017). New World Library, Novato CA.

Community Outreach Initiatives -

The department's faculty have been involved in a number of community-based outreaches throughout the year. The following initiatives and projects highlight the department's involvement with several community based organizations.

Two department faculty members continue to oversee the Mercer County Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC) which currently provides 12 hours of psychoeducation regarding alcohol and other drugs and completes screenings to determine appropriate levels of continued care to over 900 Mercer County residents per year. Those referred for treatment are monitored for a minimum of 16 weeks and up to 10 years.

Counselor Education faculty members are active as program evaluators and collaborators with community organizations such as Womanspace and the Trenton Police Department's YouthStat program.

Two members of the Counselor Education Faculty are certified **Youth Mental Health First Aid** Facilitators and one is a **Psychological First Aid** instructor and routinely offer programs free or at reduced cost to local non-profits.

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. In addition to numerous independent study and clinical experiences. Community engaged learning experiences were integrated into the following courses:

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 660 (Organization, Administration, and Supervision of School Counseling) partnered with Trenton Middle Schools to deliver classroom career guidance lessons.

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 2017-2018:

STUDENT AWARDS 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 4, 2018.

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 2018 Douglas Burroughs Professional Commitment Award was given to: **Ms. Angela Cartagena Mutis**.

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. Gina Marie Carter**.

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. Natasha Perez-Shabazz**.

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 2018 Student Scholar of the Year award was given to: **Ms. Nicole Ottmer**.

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: **Mr. Luke Thompson**.

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

The **CSI Professionalism Scholarship** honors a newly accepted CSI member who has proved to be a true professional and leader in and out of the classroom who exhibit professionalism, leadership, enthusiasm, genuineness and a wellness perspective. This year's recipient was **Mr. Luke Thompson**.

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. Shyamli Shah**.

The **Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota Advocacy Scholarship** honors a newly accepted member who has been an advocate for a specific client or group of people during their internship experience who exhibit empathy, cultural competency, acceptance, altruism and dedication. This year's recipient was **Natasha Perez-Shabazz**.

D. PROGRAM OUTCOMES: Vital Statistics

a. *Number of graduates from 2017-2018 Academic Year:*

- 15 CACREP-Accredited Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program (Master of Arts in Counseling)
- 11 CACREP-Accredited Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling and Therapy Program (Master of Arts in Counseling)
- 28 CACREP-Accredited School Counseling Program (Master of Arts in Counseling)
- 1 Post-Masters Educational Specialist Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy
- 18 Completed all of the educational requirements for the Student Assistance Coordinator in the Schools Certificate with Advanced Standing (SAC CEAS)

TOTALS: 54 MA, 1 EdS, and 18 SAC CEAS

a. Job placement rate for May 2017 graduates:

90% of those responding to surveys (52% response rate) who actively sought jobs are currently employed in the field.

Employment rates by programs are (survey data and personal correspondence):

90% for School Counseling

95% for Clinical Mental Health Counseling

95% for Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling and Therapy

b. National Counselor Exam (NCE) pass rate for May 2018 graduates 97.8%

c. Program completion rates:

100% for School Counseling

100% for Clinical Mental Health Counseling

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

CONCLUSION:

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. For example, several of these alumni presented at New Jersey Counseling Association Annual Conference this year. Our alumni also serve on the executive board of the Alpha Epsilon (a local chapter) of Chi Sigma Iota, which facilitated important services for current 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.