

Department of Counselor Education

The College of New Jersey

ANNUAL REPORT

Academic Year 2018-2019

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 graduating 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. During 2018-2019 the department began our review process for renewing our CACREP accreditation which will continue throughout 2019-2020 and conclude with a site visit from an accreditation team.

B. DEPARTMENT IMPACT in 2018-2019:

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 Joanna Couto, of Elizabeth, New Jersey for the NBCC Fellowship Program. As a fellow, Joanna 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.

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.

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.

The Department received a 3 year, \$375,000 federal Mental Health Awareness Training grant to provide Youth Mental Health First Aid to community members and service providers throughout Mercer County and surrounding areas.

A two year contract extension was awarded to two department faculty members to 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.

A two year grant totaling nearly \$400,000, with the possibility of an additional 2 years of funding was awarded to the department by the State of New Jersey to fund The Trenton RISE Project, which is a unique collaboration between the City of Trenton Recreation Department, The Trenton Police Department, and The College of New Jersey Department of Counselor Education. The collaborators will be developing a youth center designed to provide a safe and structured environment for youth ages 12-18 to participate in supervised recreation, life skills

programming, academic enrichment activities, set to open in the fall of 2019. One unique aspect of the center will be a strong research and evaluation component which is being designed to ensure that we are meeting the needs of youth using culturally appropriate evidenced based practice, and making adjustments to programming to meet the evolving needs of the community. Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG) are currently being leveraged to renovate a now shuttered city property at 444 North Clinton Avenue, Trenton, NJ.

Our department continues to be active in 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. Students participate in these experiences during an number of courses in the U.S. and during our summer abroad program in Portugal.

C. Student Awards in AY 2018-2019:

STUDENT AWARD 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 10, 2019.

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 2019 Douglas Burroughs Professional Commitment Award was given to: **Ms. Mariagrazia Buttitta.**

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. Bri-Anne Gladd.**

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. Deborah Paulsen.**

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 2019 Student Scholar of the Year award was given to: **Ms. Kaylee Friedman and Ms. Dana Kneis.**

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 recipients of the Outstanding Counseling Student of the Year Award are: **Ms. Erin Brendel and Ms. Joana Couto.**

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

The **CSI Current Student Scholarship** honors a current student who exhibits innovation, resourcefulness, enthusiasm, interpersonal skills, and persistence while maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or above. This year's recipient was **Ms. Maribel Garcia-Gonzalez.**

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. Dana Baber.**

The **Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota Altruism 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 **Ms. Katie Warga.**

D. PROGRAM OUTCOMES: Vital Statistics

a. *Number of graduates from 2018-2019 Academic Year:*

- *15 CACREP-Accredited Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program (Master of Arts in Counseling)*
- *3 CACREP-Accredited Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling and Therapy Program (Master of Arts in Counseling)*
- *15 CACREP-Accredited School Counseling Program (Master of Arts in Counseling)*
- *1 School Counseling Certification*
- *10 Completed all of the educational requirements for the Student Assistance Coordinator in the Schools Certificate with Advanced Standing (SAC CEAS)*

TOTALS: *33 MA, 1 School Counseling Certification and 10 SAC CEAS*

a. Job placement rate for May 2019 graduates:

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

100% for School Counseling

100% for Clinical Mental Health Counseling

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

b. National Counselor Exam (NCE) pass rate for May 2019 graduates 93.1%

c. Program completion rates:

100% for School Counseling

100% for Clinical Mental Health Counseling

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

CONCLUSION:

Our department continues to evolve to best meet the needs of our students. This is done via curricular changes to stay abreast of changes in the counseling field, providing opportunities for enhanced field and research experience, and seeking out grant funding to offer our students unique and competitive financial assistance packages. The faculty continue to engage in a number of scholarly endeavors that enhance the work they do in the classroom.