NBCC RECEIVES UNESCO PARTNER STATUS

NBCC’s global status has reached a new level through its designation as an official non-governmental organization (NGO) partner with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

In the confirmation letter to NBCC President and CEO Dr. Thomas Clawson in May, UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura said, “UNESCO looks forward to a fruitful working partnership in our converging endeavours in the service of international cooperation and development.”

NBCC Board Past Chair Dr. Dawna Jackson-Sanford welcomed the decision as a logical next step in an ongoing process. “NBCC’s partnership with UNESCO as an NGO is the culmination of a good deal of work and cooperation between the two organizations,” she said. “The Board of Directors and the staff of NBCC look forward to a productive partnership and the ability to work with UNESCO in achieving its missions and goals.”

The designation had the strong backing of UNESCO’s Education Sector, which noted in the nomination fact sheet that “NBCC International collaborates with the Education Sector, which recognizes the importance of its partnership in the context of the sector’s new priority from access to success. The Education Sector, therefore, has strongly endorsed its application.”

The new NBCC status, listed formally as “NGO in operational relations with UNESCO,” means that NBCC International is eligible to participate as an observer at a wide array of UNESCO meetings and conferences and may be asked by the director-general to take on projects deemed appropriate for NBCC’s capabilities.

The formal vote on NBCC’s status came at an April 13 meeting in Paris of UNESCO’s Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations in conjunction with a regular meeting of the agency’s executive board.

While attending that meeting, NBCC International Executive Vice President Ted Iliff learned that UNESCO plans to form even deeper relationships with NGOs.

“There was a lot of comment about how UNESCO is eager to reinvigorate its work with NGOs,” Mr. Iliff said. “Some officials told me that..."
UNESCO needs to be more proactive in its dealings with its partners. This will be a major theme of the General Conference later this year, and it is clear UNESCO is looking to NGOs for more involvement in fulfillment of its mission and goals.”

A key project that already involves UNESCO–NBCC cooperation is the Guidance, Counselling and Youth Development Centre for Africa in Lilongwe, Malawi. In a separate meeting in Paris at UNESCO’s Basic Education and Literacy Division, Director Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta told Mr. Iliff that her office is eager to boost the activities and awareness of the centre, which officially opened in January.

The centre was created by a committee of ministers of education from more than 30 southern African nations and receives financial backing from NBCC. An early UNESCO–NBCC project will establish a set of goals for the centre, including a marketing and promotion strategy.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED FOR NBCC AND AFFILIATES

NBCC and its affiliates have elected the following new board members: Dr. James Benshoff of Greensboro, NC, NBCC Board of Directors, three-year term; Dr. John McCarthy of Indiana, PA, Center for Credentialing and Education (CCE) Board, five-year term; and Dr. Sandra Lopez-Baez of Charlottesville, VA, NBCC International Board, two-year term.

Dr. Benshoff is a long-standing faculty member in the Counselor Education Department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He recently concluded a three-year presidency term with the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES). His research interests include counseling adolescents, training counselors, and counselor supervision.

Dr. McCarthy has taught in the Department of Counseling at Indiana University of Pennsylvania since 2001. He founded the campus-based Center for Counselor Training and Services, which offers workshops to area mental health professionals and graduate students. His research and teaching interests include adolescent depression, multicultural counseling, and the mental health needs of college students.

A former NBCC board chair, Dr. Lopez-Baez teaches in the Counselor Education program at the University of Virginia, where she is also director of the Personal and Career Development Center, a training facility for graduate students. In 2005, she served as president of Counselors for Social Justice, a division of ACA. Her research interests include multiculturalism, personality assessments, and working with Latino populations.

Dr. Thomas Clawson, president and CEO of NBCC, noted that each board member contributes uniquely based upon their experiences and background. He is looking forward to working with each of these new members.

NBCC continues as the premiere professional certification board devoted to credentialing counselors who meet high standards for general and specialty counseling practices. CCE, one of several NBCC affiliates, provides management, examination, and credential review services to organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies. NBCC International, founded in 2003, supports and strengthens the counseling profession globally.
NEVADA LICENSURE LAW

On June 14, Governor Jim Gibbons signed a bill providing licensure for mental health counselors in Nevada.

NBCC worked closely with Nevada grass-roots leaders and its coalition partners, the American Counseling Association (ACA) and the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA), to enact counselor licensure legislation in Nevada. California is now the only state that does not license mental health counselors.

Requirements to become a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) in Nevada include:

- A master's degree in either mental health counseling or community counseling from a program approved by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).
- Two years/3,000 hours of post-master's supervised experience.
- A passing score on the National Counselor Exam (NCE), administered by NBCC, within two years of graduation. The National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Exam (NCMHCE) is also required for licensure as an LCPC.

According to the legislation, the practice of clinical professional counseling means the treatment, assessment, and counseling or equivalent activities of a person or group of persons to achieve mental, emotional, physical, and social development and adjustment. The term, as defined by legislation, includes counseling interventions to prevent, diagnose, and treat emotional or behavioral disorders that interfere with mental health.

NBCC would also like to express our appreciation to the nearly 300 Nevada NCCs who supported this legislation.

SUCCESS IN INDIANA

Indiana House Bill 1821 became law, effective July 1, 2007. This law reversed a 1997 decision authorizing the Indiana Psychology Board to create a Restricted Test List (RTL), a list of instruments that could only be administered by licensed psychologists or those supervised by them.

NBCC and the Fair Access Coalition on Testing (FACT) advocated strongly against all of the proposed RTLS, supporting professionals' right to administer and interpret assessment instruments as long as they possess the appropriate training and experience. FACT, a multidisciplinary and nonprofit corporation, is housed in NBCC headquarters. FACT organized a coalition of state and national organizations to block the formation of an RTL and repeal the language permitting the creation of such a list. Counseling organizations involved in the coalition were the American Counseling Association, the American Mental Health Counselors Association, the Indiana Counseling Association, the Indiana School Counselors Association, and the Indiana Mental Health Counselors Association.

The Coalition argued that state licensure boards are responsible for adjudicating complaints about professionals providing services outside their scope of training, including allegations of test misuse. Over the past ten years, this coalition of state and national organizations has worked to educate government officials about the importance of citizens’ accessibility to appropriately trained professionals. Without these collective efforts, a repeal of the RTL legislation would not have succeeded.
NBCC Outreach Coordinator, Mona Olds, delivers boxes of pencils to the Teacher Supply Warehouse.

NBCC PENCIL PROJECT

Each year, approximately 9,000 counselors take an NBCC-administered examination. During the exams, administrators issue each examinee a new No. 2 pencil to use on the answer sheet. Candidates are invited to keep the pencil if they wish, but are also offered an opportunity to return it to NBCC to donate to an organization in need.

Earlier this year, staff at NBCC headquarters learned of a project in its hometown of Greensboro, NC, developed to assist public school teachers in the area. According to the National School Supply and Equipment Association, the average primary and secondary school teacher spends nearly $500 of his or her personal funds to purchase classroom supplies each year. The majority of these basic supplies are used to support needier students in the school. In response to this statistic, community organizations joined forces to create a Teacher Supply Warehouse in Greensboro.

Scheduled to open for the first time this fall, the warehouse will be stocked with supplies donated from area businesses. The project’s mission is to “get learning tools into the hands of those who need them the most.” Local teachers will be able to shop, free-of-charge, for items such as notebooks, paper, crayons, paint, and pencils.

The local Education Alliance is developing shopping guidelines to ensure the most effective distribution of supplies among various schools based on different levels of need.

NBCC has contributed approximately 4,000 pencils and 2,000 highlighter markers to this program.
SERVING THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF MILITARY FAMILIES

In recent years, NBCC, as well as individual NCCs, have been working with the Department of Defense (DoD) to provide military personnel and their dependents greater access to the mental health services of licensed professional counselors. In May 2007, Dr. Thomas Clawson, president and CEO of NBCC, submitted written testimony to the President’s Commission on Care for America’s Returning Wounded Warriors, a nine-member commission co-chaired by former Senator Bob Dole and former Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. Donna Shalala. In his testimony, Dr. Clawson addressed the rising mental health needs of service members and their families, including the continuing effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other emotional reactions to severe war-related stress. In its final report, submitted on July 25, the commission recommended that the DoD “aggressively address its acute shortage of mental health clinicians.” It further recommended that the department “prepare for the expected long-term demand that may arise from chronic or delayed-onset symptoms of PTSD.”

These developments may facilitate changes that will provide military personnel and their families increased access to counselors. TRICARE, formerly CHAMPUS, is the managed care program for military personnel and their dependents. Under the current TRICARE system, beneficiaries must obtain a physician’s referral before beginning counseling services. Not only must the services be provided by a TRICARE approved counselor, the services must also be supervised by a physician. The referral and supervision requirements do not apply to psychologists or social workers providing similar services under TRICARE. NBCC and its coalition partners, the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) and the American Counseling Association (ACA), have advocated for the removal of overly restrictive TRICARE requirements.

NBCC also sent representatives to provide similar testimony to key decision makers. In April 2007, Dr. Lynn Hall represented NBCC at a DoD Mental Health Task Force meeting in San Antonio, TX, where she stressed the importance of professional mental health counselors working with military service members and their families. Citing her personal experience with military families, Dr. Hall said that stigma can often be reduced when a strength-based model rather than a medical model is offered. She noted that waiting times to receive services would likely be reduced due to the larger number of licensed counselors available.

Currently, the Defense Authorization Bill, which incorporates these reforms, is on hold as Congress continues to evaluate the war in Iraq.

For a complete copy of Dr. Clawson’s testimony, please visit the NBCC News page on our Web site at www.nbcc.org.

Got News?
If you would like to submit an item for NCCs of NOTE or NCC NETWORK, please refer to the guidelines and deadlines on our Web site: www.nbcc.org/newsletter/guidelines.
LINDSEY WILSON STEPS UP

The countryside surrounding Columbia, KY, is dotted with recreational lakes and picturesque landscapes. Columbia’s hidden gem, however, is Lindsey Wilson College’s School of Professional Counseling, which quietly but determinedly has been pursuing a special vision for more than a decade.

Although Lindsey Wilson historically has emphasized service to its surrounding communities, the School of Professional Counseling took this commitment to new heights in response to a region-wide shortage of trained mental health professionals capable of reaching a needy but skeptical population in southern and central Kentucky.

In 1994, the college created a graduate program in counseling and human development, building on its successful baccalaureate program in human services, which had been launched in 1988. Quickly, the graduate program earned CACREP accreditation. By 2005, the undergraduate and graduate programs joined to become the college’s first school. Today the graduate program has satellites in 12 surrounding communities across Appalachia, with plans to add more sites in Tennessee, West Virginia, and Ohio. More than 600 students are enrolled—250 in the graduate programs and 350 in the undergraduate programs.

The reason for such exceptional growth in such an unexpected geographic area was the faculty’s foresight that an unchecked mental health practitioner shortage would be devastating for the region. In setting up the program, the school partnered with area community colleges to bring training to individual locales.

Face-to-face instruction is offered in a weekend format allowing students to manage work and family responsibilities at the same time. Each site has its own administrative staff, which strives to create a sense of support and community spirit among students. Academic integrity, professional competence, and sound ethical values remain hallmarks of the program. In Dean John Rigney’s (NCC, LPCC) words, “We take this mission seriously. Our goal is to serve every student—every day.”

Graduates sing the program’s praises. Most continue to serve the region by becoming licensed professional counselors and going on to work at nearby government and social agencies. The school promotes national certification, and many students begin the NCC application process while still enrolled.

Tammy Saragas, a regional enrollment director for the school, described the program’s impact this way, “The Appalachian stereotype that has been such a struggle for us is changing as mental health services improve in this area; destructive cycles are breaking apart. The program design is an excellent fit for the special needs and challenges of this region.”

Faculty members provide grounding and leadership not only for students, but also the entire mental health community in Kentucky. Three faculty members have served as presidents of Kentucky mental health associations (KCA, KPTA, and KMHCA). Several played key roles in the passage of Kentucky’s Licensure Law. Not surprisingly, the headquarters of the Kentucky Mental Health Counseling Association (KMHCA) is located on Lindsey Wilson’s main campus in Columbia.

For more information, contact Dr. Angelia Bryant, NCC, CCMHC, LPCC, Associate Dean, School of Professional Counseling, at 270-634-4453.

CACREP Releases Final Public Draft of 2009 Standards

The last public draft of the proposed 2009 CACREP Standards is now available for review and comment. Copies of Draft #3 can be downloaded on the CACREP Web site at www.cacrep.org/StandardsRevisionText.html. In addition, the site includes “A Guide to Reviewing Draft #3 of the 2009 CACREP Standards,” which describes the revision process and outlines major changes being considered in each section of the draft.

Draft #3 will remain open for public comment until November 30, 2007. Feedback forms are available online and include instructions for submitting them either electronically or in hard copy.
NBCC hosted its biennial state boards meeting in Reno, Nevada, on August 15–16. Forty-two state board members and administrators gathered at Harrah’s Hotel for important updates on NBCC’s testing program, CCE services, and other topics of interest to the profession.

The event included 13 presentations, working lunch meetings, and networking opportunities. Featured speakers were:

- Shirley Jones, JD, MHA, senior policy analyst with the Practitioners Data Banks Branch, provided an overview about the National Violations Data Bank and asked for feedback to increase compliance with mandatory databank usage.
- Dr. Carol Bobby, executive director of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), reported on standards revision and merger negotiations with the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE).
- Dr. Rob Olding, of the University of Phoenix, discussed quality assurance in counselor education.
- Jennifer Shatley, vice president of Harrah’s Code of Commitment, provided information about the organization’s Responsible Gaming Program with specific emphasis on addictive gambling behavior.
- Steve Addicott, from Caveon Test Security’s presentation, The Ten Most Wanted Cheaters, discussed innovations in cheating and the latest measures used to thwart them.

The highlight of the two-day meeting was an evening reception honoring all who worked to make the Nevada counselor licensure law a reality (see page 3). Nevada Senator Joseph Heck, champion of the state’s original counselor licensure bill, addressed those attending. Senator Heck, who is widely regarded as a friend to mental health consumers, received an appreciation award acknowledging his tireless work on behalf of the counseling profession. He returned the praise, pointing to the work of NCCs as well as NBCC, the American Counseling Association (ACA), and the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA). ACA Immediate Past President Marie Wakefield and NBCC Board Chair Dr. Linda Foster introduced Senator Heck and thanked the counselors who were active in the effort to bring the licensure law to the state.

Other highlights included a joint presentation by Shawn O’Brien, NBCC director of assessment and research, and Dr. Matt Buckley, American Association of School Counseling Boards (AASCB) testing chair, who covered topics related to NBCC’s testing programs. In addition, Dr. Foster and Dr. Tom Clawson provided a commemorative overview of NBCC’s growth during the last 25 years and detailed the organization’s future plans. This presentation included a touching look at the worldwide mental health crisis and NBCC’s collaboration with the international organizations responding to this issue.

In August, both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate passed bills regarding the “Children’s Health and Medicare Protection Act.” The House bill, HR 3162, establishes coverage of state-licensed mental health counselors under Medicare as well as increased access to health insurance for uninsured children. The passage of this bill marks the first time that the House of Representatives has approved Medicare reimbursement for counseling services.

The Senate version did not include a provision for Medicare coverage. A conference committee will be appointed to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate legislation.

NBCC continues to collaborate with the American Counseling Association (ACA) and the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) on this and other advocacy efforts. Please check the NBCC Web site for updates on this matter.
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While it’s standard practice to protect your physical property with insurance, counselors often forget to protect the most important part of their business: their reputation and financial security. Unfortunately, many certified counselors misunderstand how professional liability insurance protects them and their practice in the event of a claim or lawsuit.

Anyone who interacts with clients, as a professional in an educational or clinical environment, or even as a student working on their first internship, needs professional liability insurance. In our litigious environment, your close work with people can open you to accusations of misconduct. While such allegations may not be unexpected in the case of client suicide or injury, there have even been instances when high school students have filed suit against guidance counselors after being rejected for scholarships, claiming the counselor didn’t properly advise them! Imagine what sort of claims could be made by patients or their families undergoing counseling for more delicate issues.

Professional liability insurance does not provide coverage in instances of fraud or intentional acts; rather it offers a financial buffer in the event your professional opinion is questioned or you are accused of negligence. When a claim is made against you, the insurance company helps defray the expense of evidence discovery and represents your interests in the event of a trial or hearing.

While many employers provide professional liability coverage for their employees for acts on their behalf, you could be uninsured in the future if the employer fails to renew the coverage, goes out of business or doesn’t purchase extended reporting (tail) coverage. Any coverage with a new employer will not respond to claims arising from your previous employment. Personal coverage allows you to choose the amount of insurance you need and gives you individual control over your insurance premium.

As a National Certified Counselor (NCC), or counseling student, you have access to an exceptional professional liability insurance option: the NBCC-endorsed Professional Liability Insurance Program. Administered by a leader in the insurance industry, Lockton Risk Services, the program offers extremely competitive rates exclusively for National Certified Counselors (NCCs). If you work for an employer you can get $1mil/$3mil worth of protection for as little as $80-128 per year. Coverage is still available if you are self-employed, just at a different rate.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Shawn O’Brien and Holly Hartwig Moorhead

Shawn O’Brien was recently promoted from NBCC’s director of corporate services to vice president of the Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE) and director of assessment and research for NBCC. In announcing the promotion, Dr. Thomas Clawson, president and CEO of NBCC and Affiliates, stated, “For more than 13 years, NBCC has benefited from Shawn’s unwavering commitment and high level of professionalism. His knowledge and talents have been integral to the growth and success not only of NBCC, but of CCE and the NBCC Foundation.”

Prior to joining NBCC, Mr. O’Brien served as curriculum coordinator for the California Language Institute in Japan where he directed a testing program for approximately 7,000 students. In his new role at NBCC, he will direct CCE’s competency assurance projects and coordinate all stages of exam development.

About the challenges, Mr. O’Brien commented, “I am extremely pleased to be part of CCE, a company uniquely positioned to provide credentialing services to the growing number of small to mid-sized professional organizations.”

Dr. Holly Hartwig Moorhead, PhD, NCC, LPC, PCC, joined the NBCC staff in August as ethics officer. Dr. Moorhead holds a PhD in Counseling and Counselor Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. From 2003–07, she taught in the Counseling and Human Development Program at Walsh University in Ohio. In addition to ethics, her professional interests include professional counselor identity, crisis counseling services, physical and spiritual wellness models, and supervision.

The NBCC ethics officer assists in the development of ethics policies and procedures for the organization. She also handles inquiries and coordinates the complaint review process. In describing her first impressions of the job, Dr. Moorhead said, “I am honored to be part of NBCC and to be joining the efforts of so many others who are working to strengthen the counseling profession.”

NCC CORNER

Why Continue to Get Supervision?

Counselors who have obtained the NCC credential are not required to report supervision hours to NBCC. Nonetheless, NBCC firmly believes that supervision is an important ongoing professional obligation that will benefit counselor and client. As a way of encouraging NCCs to continue receiving counselor supervision, NBCC now provides up to 25 hours of CE credit for 25 hours of documented supervision. NCCs can log the 25 hours in their NBCC Continuing Education File folders.

Great Resource for NCCs

NBCC offers these three resources, all of which carry NBCC approval, to help you in your search for continuing education:

- Contact information for more than 900 NBCC-approved Continuing Education Providers from every U.S. state, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands is maintained on the NBCC Web site and can be found at www.nbcc.org/continuing_ed_providers.

- An NBCC-approved Home Study Providers list, containing more than 50 approved providers offering home study either online or by mail, can also be found at www.nbcc.org/continuing_ed_providers.

- The NBCC Continuing Education calendar, which lists live training opportunities offered by NBCC-approved providers over the upcoming four months, can be found at www.nbcc.org/calendar.
The National Certified Counselor

Counseling Books Needed

NBCC constantly receives requests from organizations around the world for used counseling books. In response to these requests, NBCC collects materials and ships them to developing counseling centers or specialized university libraries. Countries recently designated for book shipments included Malawi, Cambodia, and Portugal.

If you want donate new or used books to these organizations, please consider shipping them to:

NBCC
International Book Collection Project
3 Terrace Way
Greensboro, NC 27403

Foundation Announces First-time Donors

The NBCC Foundation is pleased to announce its inaugural donor roster. These pacesetters responded generously to the foundation’s first call for contributions. The NBCC Foundation Board has designated counseling services for the under-served and support for counseling partnerships internationally as its premiere projects. NBCC salutes:

Edward M. Andrews
Lenora A. Angelone
Sandy Appleby
Christina A. Ballard
Jennifer M. Bavifard
Janice E. Beeching-Pieper
Linda G. Blanding
Phyllis W. Bushman
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Shari Tarver-Behring
Douglas C. Thompson
Leslie A. Veach
Sylvia Vukmitovich
Gerald M. Wehmer
Shirley M. Woolaway

To support the foundation’s work with a donation, please contact Shawn O’Brien, NBCC Foundation, 3 Terrace Way, Greensboro, NC 27403 or at (336) 547-0607 or obrien@nbcc.org.

HARRIET MAYOR FULBRIGHT NEW NBCC FOUNDATION TRUSTEE

Harriet Mayor Fulbright, president of the J. William & Harriet Fulbright Center, has been appointed by the NBCC Board of Directors as a trustee of the NBCC Foundation. Ms. Fulbright is internationally renowned for her advocacy through the Fulbright Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes the late Senator J. William Fulbright’s vision for world peace and continues Harriet Fulbright’s life-work in education.

The NBCC Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, was founded to develop resources to promote the advancement of professional counseling. Trustees have identified two target areas: enhancing professional counseling services to under-served and never-served populations and fostering communication and collaboration within the global mental health field. The foundation recently provided a grant to support “The Global Mental Health Congress: Focus on the Never-Served,” whose purpose was to raise awareness of the worldwide shortage of mental health care and the difficulties that all societies encounter in providing that care.

NCCs can support the NBCC Foundation in its public service goals by making a tax deductible donation. Since all administrative costs are covered by other funds, 100 percent of each contribution provides direct support. The trustees are dedicated to maximizing the value of donations to help the disadvantaged and minimize any expense that does not directly enhance counseling services.

To make a donation by mail, please send a check, payable to NBCC Foundation, 3 Terrace Way, Greensboro, NC 27403. General, memorial, or honorary donations may be made by including the name of the honoree with payment. Donors may also designate whether their contribution should be used for international or domestic counseling services.

All contributions will be acknowledged in NBCC publications unless otherwise requested.

Counseling Books Needed

NBCC constantly receives requests from organizations around the world for used counseling books. In response to these requests, NBCC collects materials and ships them to developing counseling centers or specialized university libraries. Countries recently designated for book shipments included Malawi, Cambodia, and Portugal.

If you want donate new or used books to these organizations, please consider shipping them to:

NBCC
International Book Collection Project
3 Terrace Way
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- Catherine Chang, NCC, of Atlanta, GA, associate professor at Georgia State University, received the American Counseling Association's Counselor Educator Advocacy Award at the 2007 ACA conference in Detroit.

- Douglas Guiffria, NCC, of Rochester, NY, was awarded the ACA's Ralph F. Berdie Memorial Research Award for his research on advancing college retention theory and improving ways in which counselors and other student affairs professionals prepare and support minority college students. He received the award at the 2007 ACA conference in Detroit. Guiffria is an assistant professor of counseling and human development, educational leadership, at the University of Rochester's Warner School of Education.

- Michael Howard, NCC, CC-MHC, MAC, LPC, of Jacksonville, NC, recently published an article titled “Use of EMDR in the Treatment of Water Phobia at Navy Boot Camp: A Case Study” with co-author Ruth Cox. The article, which appears in the international online journal, Traumatology, explores the treatment of a trauma-based phobia using EMDR in a military training environment.

- Reynol Junco, NCC, LPC, of Boalsburg, PA, recently published Connecting to the Net Generation: What Higher Education Professionals Need to Know about Today’s Students (NASPA) with co-author Jeanna Mastrodicasa. The authors profile the Net (Millennial) Generation and how technology is used in psychosocial development. The book provides an overview of popular technologies, such as blogs, instant messaging, social networking Web sites, and file-sharing programs, and examines how students use these technologies to communicate and create a sense of community. The authors also offer specific recommendations for ways to better serve Net Generation students in the areas of career planning, academic advising, campus safety, counseling and disability services, parental involvement, and classroom learning. The book presents results of a nationwide survey of more than 7,500 students.


- Keith Seagle, NCC, LPC, has been elected to a four-year term as city commissioner for the city of Dothan, AL. A counselor, not a politician, Seagle was inspired to run by friends and family who wanted a commissioner who would listen to the people. He answered the call to civic duty and defeated the incumbent with a grass-roots campaign emphasizing responsiveness to voter concerns.


The Workforce Development Professionals Network (WDPN), the National Career Development Association (NCDA), and the Center for Credentialing and Education (CCE) announced a new joint venture in July 2007. The Center of Career Development Excellence (CoE) accreditation was created to identify career and workforce development programs that meet high standards and operate with continuous-improvement and customer-focused services. The CoE process, benchmarks, and accreditation for high-performance career and workforce development program providers were presented by senior representatives from the three collaborating organizations at NCDA's annual conference in Seattle. Topics included:

- Organizational/programmatic assessment and training
- Three levels of accreditation
- Training for those who will become facilitators and auditors for organizations/programs/program networks beginning the self-assessment and benchmark process
- Step-by-step guides and strategies for program teams to plan improvements
- Processes to advance outcomes and secure performance-based dollars

"With the increased competition and heightened expectations from customers and funding sources, this high-performance, quality-based accreditation process provides a competitive edge to qualifying programs and, most importantly, ensures better service to individuals and organizations seeking career and workforce development services," says Bill Freed, of WDPN, lead author of the CoE accreditation standards.

An organization or program seeking accreditation will begin with a self-assessment of 222 activities in 22 categories across five domains. The domains are:

- Pre-program activities (e.g., marketing and recruitment, orientation, and intake and assessment)
- In-program activities (e.g., customer service for individuals and employers seeking career guidance and skill training)
- Post-program activities (e.g., job development, retention, advancement, and career ladder transitions)
- Vision, mission, values, and leadership provided in the organization or program
- Across-program support functions such as financial systems, collaborative relationships, and IT management affecting the organization or program.

"CoE accreditation is the next logical step in assuring quality services and training in our workforce," CCE Vice President Shawn O'Brien stated. "Over time, employers and individuals alike will see the benefits of working with CoE-accredited entities."

Organizations/programs that do not initially meet the requirements for full accreditation may qualify for conditional or provisional accreditation and continue to use their CoE Continuous Improvement Plans to work toward the goal of full accreditation, supported by subject matter expert facilitators. The next trainings for High Performance Career Development Programming (HPCD) Auditors will take place at the ICDC Conference (Sacramento, CA) in November and at Baylor University (Waco, TX) in December. The training will provide 20 Continuing Education Unit contact hours toward Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) or Career and Workforce Development Programming (CWDP) and related professional certification renewals. “NCDA is pleased to assist in the preparation of HPCD Facilitators and Auditors to support the CoE accreditation,” said Deneen Pennington, executive director. NCDA will maintain the Registry of Certified HPCD Facilitators, Auditors, and CoE Programs. For more information about upcoming Auditor and Facilitator Training Programs, contact Ms. Pennington at dpenn@ncda.org or call 1-866-367-6232.

Summary materials and details on the CoE program accreditation levels and approaches are available at www.wdpn.net or by calling the Workforce Development Professionals Network at 412-269-9376 ext. 2. The CoE application and information on accreditation levels are available at www.cce-global.org or by calling CCE at 336-482-2856.
The Center for Credentialing and Education, Inc. (CCE) is an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. CCE is a management services company specializing in credential development, association and board management services, test development, application review, measurement services, and the administration of specialty credentials, including the Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF), Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS), Distance Credentialed Counselor (DCC), and Distance Credentialed Facilitator (DCF).

CCE recently exhibited and presented at the National Career Development Association (NCDA) 2007 Global Conference in Seattle, WA. Look for us at the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) conference (October 10–14, 2007), and the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) conference (November 14–17, 2007).

In July 2007, CCE launched the Distance Credentialed Facilitator (DCF) certification, a credential that sets the standard in the evolving practice of distance facilitation. It designates individuals working in a wide range of settings who have met the requirements set forth by CCE. To be eligible for the DCF credential, applicants must have satisfactorily completed the CCE-approved ReadyMinds online training program and be fully certified as a GCDF or hold a master’s degree in a helping profession from a regionally accredited college or university, have successfully completed a graduate level career development course, and be able to document 2,000 hours of career development or related experience. Visit www.readyminds.com/dcf for details about the online Distance Credentialed Facilitator training program or call 888-225-8248.

Congratulations South Carolina! With more than 1,000 certified Global Career Development Facilitators (GCDFs), South Carolina outranks all other states. Certification is now mandatory for all career specialists hired through the South Carolina Department of Education’s Personal Pathways to Success program, the statewide implementation of the Education and Economic Development Act (EEDA). Passed by the state legislature in 2005, the EEDA connects academic studies with preparation for entering the workforce. The EEDA requires the SC State Department of Education to fund certified career specialists in any public middle or high school in order to lower the guidance-to-student ratio to 1:300. The career specialist works with the guidance staff to deliver standards-based career guidance. For more information regarding Personal Pathways to Success or the Education and Economic Development Act, contact Dr. Sabrina Moore at smoore@ed.sc.gov.

NCCs may qualify for the Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS) certification via the alternate entry option available to experienced clinical supervisors and counselor educators. To find out if you qualify, please visit the CCE Web site at www.cce-global.org.

To learn more about CCE’s management services, visit www.cce-global.org or call 336-482-2856.
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The National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. (NBCC®) values diversity. There are no barriers to certification on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, or national origin.

NBCC TAKES TO THE AIR FOR MHF

NBCC’s promotion of its new Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) credential is taking flight even before the program itself gets off the ground.

In November, an interview discussing the MHF concept will be aired as part of the in-flight entertainment on 29,000 American Airlines flights.

Sky Radio, which produces the “America’s Innovators” talk show for the world’s largest airline, recorded a segment with host Dennis Michaels interviewing NBCC President and CEO Dr. Thomas Clawson.

In the interview, Dr. Clawson explains why the MHF concept was developed in collaboration with the World Health Organization, how the program will work, and how it is designed to teach basic mental health skills to helpers and caregivers who are not mental health professionals.

“We thought this would be an ideal opportunity to reach a large, sophisticated audience,” Dr. Clawson said. “Listeners are sure to include people who will want to explore MHF’s potential for their company, organization, or community.”

A Sky Radio spokeswoman said the interview perfectly fit the premise of the in-flight talk show by highlighting an innovative mental health concept developed by an American organization. Other guests on the show have included Jimmy Carter, Donald Trump, Steve Forbes, and Michael Dell.

Sky Radio estimates that of the 4.2 million domestic and international passengers flying with American in November, at least 600,000 will listen to the program. In addition, the interview will be linked to the NBCC Web site. It will also be available on Sky Radio’s site (www.skyradionet.com) for a year after it airs on American Airlines.

MHF pilot training has been scheduled for Mexico City in late September. The full curriculum is expected to be ready for training of trainers in January.