Globalization—Not a Foreign Concept

By Dr. Thomas W. Clawson, NBCC Executive Director

Throughout my tenure at NBCC, I have often heard discussions centering around the question of whether counseling should embark upon an international journey. Should NBCC in some way be involved in promoting professional counseling worldwide? Invariably in the past, the discussion involved generally whether it fits NBCC’s mission, and, specifically, was such a venture logistically and financially possible. Toward the end of the last decade, the inevitability of a global economy, the strides in communication more on page 2

CNN Editor Becomes NBCC’s New Public Board Member

NBCC is delighted to welcome Ted Iliff, executive editor of Cable News Network (CNN), as our newest public board member. Public members are not from the field of counseling but from a variety of backgrounds. In the past, we have been proud to have Eugene Lehmann, president of AARP; Robert Shreve, chairman of AARP and a public school superintendent; and Frances Tsakonas, education consultant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece. All of these outstanding individuals have brought to NBCC a noncounseling perspective along with their organizational expertise.

We are especially excited this year to have Ted Iliff join us. He and his staff of 60 edit the scripted news reported on all CNN broadcasts. We look forward to Ted lending us not only a public point of view but also his business and international expertise. This is an extremely important addition to NBCC’s Board of Directors as we move forward in the global growth of our profession.
technology, and the surge of international distance education changed the discussions from "whether" to "how" can a strategy be developed. To that end, NBCC's board has been systematically moving toward a global strategy.

Selection of board members with the normal eye for diversity has created a current group that is not only familiar with foreign diversity, but also interested in the strategic nature of a global versus a national perspective. Attendance at meetings with international themes, serving on other boards with international interests, and studying what advantages there are for current NCCs for a global strategy has led to a more focused approach to the topic.

Is there a down side? Actually there are multiple ones which I'd like to discuss. First, the financial aspect always looms. In fact, this has deterred most professions from leaving our shores. Second, Americans are always cautioned, more domestically these days, that we could be seen as imperialists. And then there is the continued need to focus upon our national and state interests in the counseling community.

Can a global strategy be inexpensive? We've found a way. Are we going to be considered imperialist? Not if we are open minded about practice in foreign cultures. We cannot dispel unwarranted criticism. Would globalizing counseling hurt our state movements for licensure and school counselor recognition? On the contrary—this is probably the area that most of us have missed—globalization will help NCCs and their clients.

Each of the 45 states enacting licensure laws has helped the next few to "prove" that there is a need for licensure. Currently, provinces of Canada are examining our laws, and Puerto Rico is in the throes of its quest for licensure. The point I think we've missed in the United States is that international recognition of counseling by world bodies and nations can only help the prestige of counseling here. Not only will recognition by organizations like UNESCO or WHO enhance our stature at home, but it will give future generations of NCCs far greater possibilities for global practice—whether via Internet or emigration.

So, what will this cost? Certainly far less than our expenditures on state licensure, but our goal is for the cost to be minimal. With a proper strategy of gaining (free) recognition as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) through world bodies, close contacts with the five existing counselor certification boards in other countries (Australia, Britain, Canada, Ireland, and New Zealand), and technical assistance to countries developing credentials, little cash outlay is needed. And, for the long-term rewards possible, this could be a good return on a small investment. We will, of course, seek funding for organizing international consultation from world bodies.

Is this imperialism? Certainly no profession has more experience and tools in cultural sensitivity than counseling. Further, we understand what it is like to have other professions (not nations) dictate what and how they want us to practice. With a healthy balance of cultural awareness and understanding quality practice, and, at the same time, understanding our own historical development as a profession, we can help emerging professional movements to see basic tenets of counselor development—education/training, supervised practice/experience, and ethical behavior—as the marks of a profession.

Equally important as the world becomes smaller is our need to find more techniques and theories that are effective in diverse populations. What better way to advance our knowledge here than to invite more people living in more cultures to share their expertise with us?
CONTINUING ED PROVIDER NEWS

RECORD RETURN RATE FOR ANNUAL UPDATE FORMS AND 5TH YEAR RENEWALS

The Recertification and Continuing Education Department has been overjoyed and overwhelmed at the high rate of returns for the annual updates and fifth-year renewals. Thank you to those who worked hard to be on time. For the those of you who still want to renew for 2001–2002, you have time—but a late fee will be charged if the materials are received after October 31, 2001. Don’t be left behind—renew today! Let us know if you need a duplicate update or renewal form. Don’t forget to attach summaries of evaluations for the programs you list on the top half of the update form (not required for fifth year renewals).

FREE LISTING IN THE NBCC CONTINUING ED CALENDAR

We recently sent Calendar Listing Request Forms to all approved providers. You must submit this form in order to take advantage of the free listing service provided by NBCC on our Web site and also on our NBCC Fax Information Line. Please do not attach these to your Annual Update or Fifth-Year Renewal Forms. You may send them in together, but please keep the calendar forms separate.

CAREFUL WITH THAT TERMINOLOGY!

NBCC Approved Continuing Education Providers are required to award continuing education credit in terms of hours. If a workshop begins at noon and ends at 3 p.m., then you would award three hours (not three CEUs). You may use both terms, if you wish, by putting the CEUs in parentheses. For example, if you sponsored a four-day conference, you might award someone as much as 25 hours but in parentheses you can also say (2.5 CEUs)—please notice the decimal. Contact the Recertification and Continuing Education Department if you have questions.

PROVIDERS IN THE NEWS

We were surprised and pleased to greet provider Peter Begalla of Professional CEU .com (provider #5960). Peter happened to be in Greensboro visiting faculty at the University of North Carolina Greensboro and dropped in at our offices to discuss marketing of his programs. We hope we gave him some helpful hints.


Providers: We will be glad to announce awards and books published in the column as space allows. Upcoming events will not be announced in this space. — Editor

Voluntary Audits

The following NCCs have passed the NBCC Voluntary Audit for special recognition in continuing education. While 100 hours of continuing education are required for recertification, these NCCs have completed and documented more than 130 hours in the five-year certification period. They have received a special certificate citing this achievement and are to be congratulated for their dedication to excellence. NBCC salutes them!

Marylea Henderson, #15234, Waco, TX
Joan Murphy, #44164, Yarmouth, ME
Gloria Urban-Hutchens, #40915, Clovis, NM
John Irvin Shearer, #22755, Lebanon, PA
Dana Brandon Couch-Davis, #36249, Washington, DC
Linda Gayle Blanton, #40140, Xenia, OH
Raymond J. Burdick, #21178, Ocean Springs, MS
Gina L. Golden, #21178, Craig, CO
Janet C. Withers, #31443, Blowing Rock, NC

Alabama NCSCs Get Salary Raise

Congratulations to the six Alabama school counselors who have received a $5,000 salary increase from the Alabama State Department of Education based on their National Certified School Counselor (NCSC) credentials. Under the current regulations, these counselors will be the only ones in Alabama to qualify for the raise due to the NCSC credential. In the future, counselors may have to apply for national certification through an alternative board that has been issuing national certification for teachers.

In 1999, the Mississippi legislature lead the nation by passing a law that awards a $6,000 raise to school counselors holding the NCSC credential. 

Summer/Fall 2001
WHAT DO YOU DO?

This is the second appearance of “What Do You Do?” in our newsletter. We have received many interesting submissions which make it difficult to choose. We hope to include all submissions as time goes by. Thank you to those who have sent in stories. We hope many more NCCs will decide to share their meaningful or unusual counseling careers with the NCC population. — Editor

COUNSELING YOUNG ADULTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Maureen Boyd, NCC, of Napa, CA, works as one of two case managers in the Youth to Adult Transition program in a county mental health department. This program was created to help young adults, ages 17 to 22, cope with mental illness and successfully achieve their optimal potential.

Maureen says the young adults she works with clearly have different needs than children or adults. “Their task, of course, is to develop autonomy, but they have difficulty seeing any future for themselves, or they don’t like what they see. The stigma of mental illness interferes with their development of self-esteem. Fear of mental illness and coping with lack of peer acceptance is a large part of their transition experience.”

“The biggest challenge is housing and independent living,” Maureen says. “Where to place a teenager with limited or no finances and, at times, little or no family support? Fortunately, my county is addressing this widespread problem, and more new housing may soon be available for the young adult population.”

Maureen admits providing this type of counseling can be stressful and physically demanding. “However, there are those days when I see a client achieve one of their stated goals, see a smile of satisfaction, and think ‘this is worth it’. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you the work that I love doing.”

It is clear from reading her story that Maureen is one of the many NCCs who care deeply about the welfare of their clients. Thank you, Maureen, for painting a picture for us of the front-line mental health case worker/counselor who is the saving grace for so many of our friends and neighbors who suffer from mental illness.

CONTACT AND EXAMINATION INFORMATION FOR THE STATE COUNSELOR LICENSURE BOARDS IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB SITE: WWW.NBCC.ORG UNDER “STATE CREDENTIALLING”
NBCC will relaunch its Web site with new features to help NCCs and their clients.

You should have received a brochure in the mail with instructions on submitting information for our Web site. Please be sure to respond promptly so we may provide the public with your correct referral information.

If you have not received this brochure by mid-August or if you have any questions, please contact NBCC as soon as possible at 336-547-0607 or nbcc@nbcc.org
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February 17, 2002

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Workplace Violence
Client Rights
Treatment of Sexual Abuse
How to Help Patients Stop Smoking
Establishing a Weight Loss Program
Assessment of Suicide in Medically Ill
Conducting and Writing
  Custody Evaluations
Sex Offender:
  Typology, Assessment & Treatment
Franzelle “Mikel” Carmon, MA, NCC, recently presented a workshop, “Healing Relationship with Self and Others,” at a conference hosted by the Common Bond Institute in St. Petersburg, Russia. The conference focused on conflict resolution and global harmony. The American sponsor was the Association for Humanistic Psychology.

Thomas W. Clawson, NCC, NCSC, LPC, executive director of NBCC and A affiliates, was recently honored with the First Annual NOCA Award for Distinguished Leadership. NOCA is the National Organization for Competency Assurance. Clawson has served on the NOCA board in the past and was instrumental in assisting NBCC and other boards in accreditation efforts with the NOCA accrediting body, the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). The NBCC staff is proud that our executive director was chosen as the first recipient of this prestigious award.

Kamlesh Mehrota, NCC, of Glen Ridge, NJ, was recently presented with the Distinguished Achievement Award by the New Jersey Chapter of the International Association of Personnel in Employment Security.

Sandra Shook, NCC, LPC, has recently accepted a position as the director of Student Support Services at Kaskasia Community College in Centralia, IL. Student Support Services is a federal TRIO program. TRIO programs serve first-generation college students to enhance their chances for success.

Correction: Dr. Phyllis-Terri Gold, NCC, CCMHC, author of Saving Grace: A Spiritual Love Story, lives in Fort Salonga on Long Island, NY, not in Florida. For more information about her book, visit her Web site at www.joylight.net or e-mail her at PTTTherapy@aol.com.
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.