



## **I. Summary of Program**

The Professional Counseling Program's personnel at the end of academic year 2014-2015 totaled four core faculty, one Coordinator of Programs, Labs and Accountability and one administrative assistant. Our adjunct faculty includes three CACREP trained counselor educators, and a doctor of pharmacy. The program accepted 73 students from an applicant pool of 81, and 69 of those began the program. The bi-annual New Student Orientation, sponsored by Simmons First Bank, commemorated the students' entrance into the profession of clinical mental health and professional school counseling. We had 115 students in seats this year. Our student body is currently 77% female and 23% male, and 90% white with African American, Hispanic and American Indian making up the remaining 10%.

## **II. Faculty Achievements**

Faculty in the program made over 50 presentations, attended 13 workshops and 12 professional meetings, served on 1 national professional society committee, served on 3 state professional society boards and committees, served on 1 regional committee, and held 2 offices in a professional society.

Faculty Presentations Included:

- "Family Grieving"
- "How to Talk to kids about sex"

- "Stress Management"
- "Under Pressure: Stress and Mental Health Professionals"
- "Personality and School Success"
- "Stress for Counseling Professionals"
- "Relationship Enrichment"
- "Romance and Comedy"
- "Coping with Difficult People"
- "Ethics in Counseling"
- "Balance in Parenting"
- "Fathering"
- "Counseling 601: Intro to the Counseling Profession"
- "Effective Communication in an Office Setting"
- "Adding to the Noise: Co-Constructing Possibilities for you and your Clients"
- "Take a Deep Breathe Relax and Enjoy the Journey (Exploring Self)"
- "Understanding How Child Abuse Impacts Sensory Integration and Brain Development"
- "Anger: Yours, Mine, and Ours"
- "A Therapeutic View: the Mental Health Component of Treatment"
- "Helping Traumatized Children Write Their Own Story"

Workshops and Professional Meetings Included:

- American Counseling Association
- ARCA Conference
- ArACES Mid-Winter Conference

- Chi Sigma Iota Induction Ceremony and Business Meeting
- Chi Sigma Iota at ACA
- Leadership Training: Preparing to work with Military Clients
- NWA Mental Health Counseling Association
- Arkansas School Counseling Regional Meeting

### **III. Program Achievements**

The program received CACREP accreditation in January 2015 after a successful site visit in November, 2014. Eight years accreditation was awarded by the CACREP board for both Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Professional School Counseling. Several changes followed the site visit including a new dedicated group room for use with group counseling sessions and group supervision sessions. The counseling program met with their Advisory Committee (comprised of members representing White County Hospital, Searcy Children's Homes, school administration, a county judge, and clinical mental health agencies) in October 2014 and reported outcomes of previous committee suggestions including feedback on our first annual Arkansas Counseling Association Alumni Reception and Counselor Care CE. The committee received updates on the CACREP accreditation process, site supervisor training, advocacy and leadership, and program enhancement. Due to the committees' feedback in regards to site supervisor training, the first on-site, site supervisor training was held by the program in January and two new field placement sites were added with others pending as an outcome of the committee round table discussions. All core faculty presented at the annual Arkansas Counseling Conference in November with program counseling students presenting poster sessions. The meeting of Arkansas Counselor Education and Supervision was held on our

campus in February with the Professional Counseling program hosting counselor educators and supervisors from Arkansas and Missouri. Successful collaborations in the community for 2014-15 include a Professional Counseling partnership with The Elliott Foundation to offer depression screenings on campus and in the Searcy community. Outreach for the community on the NWAR site in Rogers included multiple seminars in self-care for practicing therapists in that region of the state. We were also part of an interprofessional experiential collaboration with the Health Sciences on campus for speed rounds in the fall and collaborative case studies in the spring. We teamed with the Health Sciences, Public Safety, local law enforcement, paramedics, and the hospital in April for the annual Disaster Drill on campus which focused and trained on hazardous materials. The summer curriculum included a multicultural counseling trip to Haiti in a combined outreach with Harding University's Engineering Program. In 2014-2015 academic year, 100% of Professional School Counseling candidates from the Professional Counseling program who took the Praxis II School Counseling Exam 0421 (which measures knowledge and skills and is required for licensing in School Counseling) made a passing score. In the 2014-2015 academic year, 95% of Clinical Mental Health Counseling candidates from the Professional Counseling program who took the National Counselor Exam (NCE) or comprehensive exam assessing knowledge, skills, and abilities made a passing score (which is determined using the Angoff formula) on first attempt.

#### **IV. Graduates**

The program had 9 students graduate in December 2014, 19 students graduate in May 2015, and 5 students graduate in July 2015. Current program completion rate over the past three years, percentage of students who graduated from the program in the expected time period, is 89% clinical mental health

and 86% school. Current program job placement rate for the last year, number of students who within six months of receiving their degree have obtained employment in the field they were trained or a related field, is 89% clinical mental health and 88% school.