



## **I. Summary of Program**

The Professional Counseling Program's personnel at the end of academic year 2016-2017 totaled six core faculty, one Coordinator of Programs, Labs and Accountability and one administrative assistant. Our adjunct faculty includes one CACREP trained counselor educator, and a doctor of pharmacy. The program accepted 44 students from an applicant pool of 49, and 39 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 105 students in seats this year. Our student body is currently 72% female and 28% male, 83% white with African American, Asian, Hispanic, and other making up the remaining 17%.

## **II. Faculty Achievements**

Faculty in the program made over 40 presentations, attended 15 professional meetings, served on 1 national professional society committee, and served on 2 state professional society boards and committees. One faculty member was awarded the Harding University Distinguished Teacher Achievement Award.

Faculty Presentations Included:

- "Teachability"
- "The Importance of Laughter"
- "Finding a Hero"
- "Grieving"
- "Respect"
- "Kid's Fears"
- "Adult Fears"

- “Spirit, Soul, Body”
- “Psycho-Social Development”
- “Social Media and Marriage”
- “Healthy Holidays”
- " Family History"
- " Healthy In-Law Relationships"
- “Myers-Briggs and Team Dynamics”
- " Kids and Diversity"
- “Evaluate”
- “How to Help Hurting People”
- “Language of Love”
- “Influence”
- “Procrastination”
- “Combatting Princess Syndrome”
- “Psychology of Pets”
- “Healthy Friendships”
- “Positives of Social Media”
- “Emotionally Distant Parents”
- “Female Empowerment”
- "Don't Stress About Stress"
- “Dealing with Difficult Supervisees”
- “Rebooting Your Relationship”
- “Dealing with Manipulators”
- “Sibling Rivalry”
- “Cage Free Counseling”
- “Understanding Dreams”
- “Expressing Healthy Emotions”
- “Psychology of Revenge”
- "iSupervision: Creating an effective and ethical supervision experience with technology"

- "All aboard: CACREP accreditation and private institutions"
- "A Therapeutic View The Mental Health Component of Treatment/Delivering Distressing News"

Workshops and Professional Meetings Included:

- American Counseling Association
- ArCA Conference
- ArACES Mid-Winter Conference
- Chi Sigma Iota Induction Ceremony and Business Meeting
- Inter Professional Experiences with Health Sciences at Harding University
- American Military & Government Counseling

### **III. Program Achievements**

Multiple events, trainings, and program growth occurred across the 2016-17 year. 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 2016 and reported outcomes of previous committee suggestions including feedback on two programs recommended by the committee and with which the unit has been involved since the meeting in 2015: Restore Hope (to a limited degree) and the White County Safety Center (to an increasingly more active degree). Suggestions from the advisory committee for the coming year included insuring interns are well prepared to address bullying and suicide in the schools; a request that parents and children involved in DHS reunification be seen in the coming clinic; that interns facilitate groups for those coming out of the jail system or family members adjusting to the one released from prison; having interns work with parenting classes for those parents who are getting their children returned by the courts. Response has been to make a presentation available to school teachers and staff on bullying and suicide; the unit has provided an intern and clinic space for those individuals in prison and released; several presentations have been given on cyberbullying by faculty from Professional Counseling and Criminal Justice; no parenting classes have been presented as yet. The presentation is a

partnership with Professional Counseling and Criminal Justice departments. All core faculty presented at the annual Arkansas Counseling Conference in November with program counseling students presenting poster sessions of their research. The meeting of Arkansas Counselor Education and Supervision was held in February with Professional Counseling presenting sessions on ethics in supervision for counselor educators and supervisors from Arkansas and Missouri. The unit director remained president of the Arkansas Military and Government Counseling Association and was involved on the national level as a state leader. Successful collaborations in the community included 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 continued offering CE presentations for practicing therapists in that region of the state. We were also part of an ongoing inter-professional experiential collaboration with the Health Sciences programs on campus for collaborative case studies in the fall and spring. The Professional Counseling program was one of 2 identified programs on campus that led the 2016 fall IPE. The unit's Chi Sigma Iota chapter sponsored a community program for mental health professionals and brought in a nationally known speaker on Crisis and Neurobiology. Training was provided to professionals and caregivers in the foster system on the ACES screening and therapeutic response to crisis identified in the screenings. In a continuation of fulfilling the CACREP site team's recommended growth areas, the unit's Compassion Clinic was officially opened in January, 2017. A clinic director was hired and in line with new regulations of agencies and clinics, electronic record keeping began. Clinic owned iPads were purchased and faculty and interns began using an electronic system, Therapy Notes. Recording abilities were expanded using the HIPPA compliant My Space Lab allowing live supervision and downloading for review by counseling students. The clinic play room was fully furnished and functioning and classes are now offered in play therapy. Military, children, community families, and individuals are now being served on a consistent basis; and three faculty members were trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR). The unit provided accommodations for the EMDR trainers and multiple professionals in the area attended training sessions in the spring 2017 semester. The Professional Counseling program

again 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 a large scale university bus and automobile accident involving fatalities and serious injuries. Counseling graduate students served as mental health first responders in the drill and were available for students involved in the accident as well as community first responders. An academic high light is that two graduates who applied to doctoral programs in CACREP accredited counselor education programs were accepted and are now in coursework. In matters of additional growth, the University asked the Professional Counseling program to consider submitting another site for accreditation and time was spent in multiple meetings determining the logistics of that move. Two additional faculty were hired; conversations with the CACREP liaison were held and were extremely helpful in the process; and in early May a substantive report was sent for the July board meeting, requesting a site in Memphis, Tennessee be accredited for offering the Professional Counseling program.

In 2016-2017 academic year, 86% 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. The students that did not pass are English Second Language, and plan to retake the test. In the 2016-2017 academic year, 92% 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 11 students graduate in December 2016, 17 students graduate in May 2017, and 4 students graduate in July 2017. 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 95% clinical mental health and 92% school.