



# THE NATIONAL CERTIFIED COUNSELOR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR CERTIFIED COUNSELORS

## Celebrating Licensure in All 50 States

Over the years and on behalf of our certificants, NBCC has developed close working relationships with other counselor organizations and state licensure boards. These strong working relationships support the continued growth and recognition of professional counselors. One example of NBCC's commitment to this relationship building is the meeting of state licensure boards. This past August, NBCC hosted a state licensure board meeting in Washington, DC—a location specially chosen to commemorate the milestone of counselor licensure in all 50 states. While the primary focus was state licensure examinations and emerging issues in the counseling profession, the meeting also provided multiple opportunities for representatives to network and share ideas.



State counseling board representatives



State counseling board representatives listen to a presentation

This year's meeting was attended by 43 representatives from 32 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Presentations covered a variety of topics, including preparing better counselors, supporting and promoting the counseling profession, examination development and government advocacy. The schedule also included a number of special events: a luncheon on Capitol Hill with presentations from Rep. Jones' and Sen. Lieberman's offices, Capitol

tours sponsored by Rep. Rooney and a special innovation training conducted by Mr. Dan Buchner, vice president, organizational innovation, Continuum.

A special highlight of the two-day meeting of leaders was a panel presentation moderated by Dr. Thomas Clawson, president and CEO of NBCC. The distinguished panel featured Dr. Thomas Sweeney, the executive director of Chi Sigma Iota; Dr. Lloyd Stone, professor emeritus at Ohio University and the first board chair of the NBCC Board; and Dr. Carol Bobby, president and CEO of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Each of the panelists reflected on the history of the counseling profession, shared personal experiences from their leadership roles and discussed future possibilities for the profession.

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Two NBCC credentials—the NCC and the MAC—are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.

## Veterans Administration Ready to Hire Counselors

On September 30, the Veterans Administration (VA) released qualification standards that establish the official requirements for hiring counselors. These standards are the last formal step in implementing the law authorizing counselors to be employed within the VA—although the hiring of counselors will take time as positions gradually become available. This is a huge accomplishment for the counseling profession and the culmination of years of hard work.

President Bush signed S. 3421 into law in December 2006, Section 201 of which added mental health counselors to the list of professions eligible to be employed by the Veterans Administration. Since passage, NBCC has been working with the American Counseling Association (ACA), American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA), and many dedicated counselors to press for implementation of the new law. As a result of this advocacy, in March 2009 the VA announced that it would create “a new occupational category, or categories, for MFTs and LPCs.” While the news was positive, the concept of a joint occupational category for both professions was disconcerting. The three organizations, along with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) and the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT), worked collectively to ensure that each profession had its own category.

In September 2009, the organizations were successful in getting a meeting scheduled with the Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), John

Sepulveda. The meeting was attended by the majority and minority staff of the House and Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, VA staff, and representatives from NBCC, ACA, AMHCA, AAMFT and CAMFT. The meeting produced a commitment by Assistant Secretary Sepulveda to create separate qualification standards for each profession to be completed by September 2010, and to request a federal Occupational Series for the two professions from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) that would allow for the hiring of counselors throughout the federal government.

Subsequent to the meeting, the VA began the implementation process. It created a Subject Matter Expert workgroup for each profession, which was tasked with developing the draft qualification standards. The workgroups requested information from the professional organizations, but would not disclose what happened during the development process. The organizations monitored the process very closely to ensure it was on track and consistent with its timeline, but were given little exposure to the content of the standards. An internal draft of the qualification standards was completed in July 2010 and collaboration with the unions occurred in August (a legal requirement). The final step in implementation was publication of the qualification standards, which occurred in September 2010.

The new standards are final and can be changed only by going through the entire process outlined above. They are equivalent to the social work qualification standards, creating

multiple levels of employment within the VA:

- GS-9 Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselor (Entry Level – for individuals with a graduate degree in counseling but who have not yet become licensed)
- GS-11 Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselor (Independent Practice Level)
- GS-12 Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselor Program Coordinator
- GS-12 Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselor Supervisor
- GS-13 Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselor Program Manager
- GS-14 LPMHC Program Manager Leadership Assignments

The standards require licensed counselors to have a master’s degree in mental health counseling or a related field from a program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Cited examples of related mental health counseling fields include addiction counseling; community counseling; gerontology counseling; marital, couple and family counseling; and marriage and family therapy. A master’s degree in mental health counseling is the only degree that will be recognized under the new standards. There are no substitute degrees authorized.

At the time of publication, it is unclear when positions for LPMHCs will become available and at what rate. It

**Continued on page 7**

## Counseling in Nigeria and Botswana

### Counselling Association of Nigeria

“Great counsellors!”

“Great, great counsellors!”

These were the words speakers and participants used to convene and reconvene the annual conference of the Counselling Association of Nigeria (CASSON). Spoken by the presenters and echoed back by the counselors in the audience, these words seemed to be a call to attention and an acknowledgement of the work that Nigerian counselors do with the citizens of their country.



Professor Ibrahim Kolo, CASSON president, addresses conference attendees.

“CASSON holds annual conferences during which it engages in continuing capacity development exercises for members and provides avenue for paper presentations on key contemporary topical issues and research findings in counselling professional practice,” explained CASSON’s president, Professor Ibrahim Kolo.

NBCC International (NBCC-I) staff were pleased to be invited to attend and present at this 34th annual national conference, which was held in August 2010 and attended by approximately 500 Nigerian counselors and international guests.

While attending this conference, NBCC-I associate vice president Dr. Wendi Schweiger learned that CASSON is working hard to gain formal recognition for a profession that has existed for decades in Nigeria and is planning to include standards for counselors within the legislative plan.

### Botswana Counselling Association

Dr. Jabulani Muchado, president of the Botswana Counselling Association (BCA) stated, “The first international conference was a trademark for BCA. It was an eye-opener, a great opportunity for networking and collaboration. It provided BCA with a forum to reflect on its growth and development, broaden its scope of understanding the problems and challenges of counselling practice in Botswana.”

The 1st International Conference of the Botswana Counselling Association was attended by Dr. James Benshoff, NBCC Board chair; Dr. Thomas Clawson, president and CEO of NBCC; and Dr. Wendi Schweiger, who were also honored to be invited to take part in three keynote presentations during the four-day event. The conference drew



## Board Members Attend APECA Conference in Malaysia

In August 2010, the Association of Psychological and Educational Counsellors of Asia-Pacific (APECA) held its 18th biennial conference in Penang, Malaysia. Board members and staff from the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) and its affiliate the Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE) attended. Participation in the conference allowed NBCC and CCE to support international colleagues in promoting quality assurance and professionalism in counseling.

Dr. James Benshoff, NBCC Board chair, along with Dr. Thomas Clawson, NBCC’s president and CEO, provided a keynote speech addressing the history of counselor licensure and certification.

Dr. Benshoff and NBCC Board chair-elect Mr. Kevin Gallagher, along with CCE Board chair Dr. John McCarthy and NBCC staff members Dr. J. Scott Hinkle, Ms. Kristi McCaskill, Dr. Dan Collins and Dr. Andreea Szilagyi, presented to conference attendees from 19 different countries on various topics related to counseling and certification.

Following the conference, Dr. Hinkle and Dr. Donna Henderson, a professor at Wake Forest University, provided two trainings related to NBCC-I’s Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) program in Malaysia. One group completed a program that will allow them to train future trainers. The second group received instruction that will allow them to train future MHFs. Both groups were excited at the prospect of putting their new skills to work addressing local mental health needs.

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The Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE), an affiliate of NBCC, has been growing and expanding services for more than 15 years. Below are some recent developments:

### **HS-BCP (Human Services-Board Certified Practitioner):**

During the recent norming period, more than 1,950 human services practitioners took the norming examination for the Human Services-Board Certified Practitioner (HS-BCP). Of those individuals, more than 1,800 are now fully certified HS-BCPs. Now that the norming period has ended, the 2010 HS-BCP Application Packet is available at: [www.cce-global.org/extras/cce-global/pdfs/hs-bcp\\_application-standard.pdf](http://www.cce-global.org/extras/cce-global/pdfs/hs-bcp_application-standard.pdf).

### **DCC (Distance Credentialed Counselor):**

An online Distance Credentialed Counselor (DCC) training is now available as an alternative to the two-day in-person training. For more information regarding the DCC credential, please visit [www.cce-global.org](http://www.cce-global.org).

### **i-counseling:**

The Missouri Committee for Professional Counselors recently began offering its legal and ethical responsibilities examination to licensure applicants via CCE's i-counseling Web site. In addition to laws and rules examinations for state licensure boards, i-counseling also provides NBCC-approved online continuing education. For more information, visit [www.i-counseling.net](http://www.i-counseling.net).

### **Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE):**

In September 2010, CCE launched a secure browser-based portal—accessible from anywhere in the world—that allows representatives from participating universities to access documents and score results for their students. The CPCE has been adopted by more than 280 programs across the United States and abroad. It is designed to assess students' knowledge of counseling information deemed important by counselor preparation programs.

**For more information about CCE's programs and services, visit [www.cce-global.org](http://www.cce-global.org) or call 336-482-2856.**

# NBCC Seeks Nominations

### Board Nominations

The Nominations Committee of the NBCC Board of Directors is seeking nominations for two positions on the NBCC Board. Board members are elected to serve a three-year term and may be elected for a second three-year term. Each position must be filled by an individual holding the National Certified Counselor (NCC) credential.

We are also seeking nominations to fill one position on the board of our affiliate, the Center for Credentialing & Education, Inc. (CCE). The position will be filled by a public member who has relevant experience in fields related to CCE business. CCE Board members are elected to serve a five-year term.

The NBCC Foundation is seeking to fill one position on its board. The position will be filled by a public member who is willing to promote and support the mission of the Foundation. Trustees are elected to serve a two-year term and may be elected for a second two-year term.

All public members are elected by the NBCC Board of Directors based upon the recommendation of the affiliate board. A public member cannot be an NCC or derive income from the mental health care profession, and may not hold current or past employment or professional education within the mental health care field.

All available board positions will be filled July 1, 2011.

### Appointed Committees

NBCC is also looking for individuals who are willing to serve on our job analysis, testing or ethics review committees. Candidates must hold the NCC credential. Committee positions are filled on an "as needed" basis and the terms of service vary.

Nominations packets along with more information about these positions can be found on our Web site ([www.nbcc.org](http://www.nbcc.org)).

Completed nominations packets should be mailed to:  
NBCC Board  
Nominations Committee  
3 Terrace Way  
Greensboro, NC 27403-3306

The deadline for submissions is January 14, 2011.

# Continuing Education in 2010: Finding What You Need for Renewal

By Pam Leary, Senior Credentialing Specialist

National certification and state licensure both require continuing education (CE) for renewal. The sources for CE have changed somewhat over the years, so below is a short list of some of the approved methods for earning CE clock hours, what counts and how to find more information.

## Courses/Workshops/Seminars/Conferences

These are the most traditional and common sources of CE credit for professional counselors. If you enjoy the networking and travel aspects of professional association membership, then you may find this the most rewarding method for earning CE credit. NBCC maintains a four-month calendar on our Web site where NBCC-approved CE providers (ACEPs) can list their live events for free. You can find this calendar at <http://www.nbcc.org/AssetManagerFiles/ce/continuingeducationcalendar.pdf>. We also offer a directory of all NBCC ACEPs. You can view the entire list by entering no criteria in the search function and just hitting the search button on this page: [www.nbcc.org/directory/ListProviders.aspx](http://www.nbcc.org/directory/ListProviders.aspx). Follow the links to their sites to view the live events they are sponsoring.

## Supervision

Did you know that you can use up to 25 clock hours of the time you spend meeting with your supervisor for CE credit? All you need is either a signed log sheet or a short letter signed by your supervisor attesting to the hours that you have met together over the five-year certification cycle. If you meet regularly with another mental health professional who holds a master's degree in a mental health field such as counseling, psychology or social work and if your meeting is for the purpose of discussing clients and the best ways to serve them, then you can use 25 of those hours for CE credit with NBCC.

## Leadership

Counselors who serve as officers in counseling associations or on boards may count up to 20 hours of their work as CE credit. In addition, if you have served on a committee with a counseling focus that has produced "a substantial written product," or if you have served on a CACREP visitation committee or a counseling conference committee, you may count 20 CE hours for leadership. Other activities may also count for these 20 hours of CE credit.

## Home Study

This area has exploded in the last 10 years. NBCC sees increasing numbers of NCCs earning their 100 CE clock hours by home study. It can be cheaper, more convenient and allows you to select topics in a targeted fashion in addition to choosing the format you prefer. Some counselors prefer books and quizzes so that they can add to their professional libraries. Some prefer everything online for maximum access no matter where they may be working. You can access NBCC's list of home study CE providers by going to the search page at [www.nbcc.org/directory/ListProviders.aspx](http://www.nbcc.org/directory/ListProviders.aspx) and entering a tick in the box that says "Only show NBCC-Approved Home Study Providers" and then hitting "search." You will see a lengthy list of NBCC-approved CE providers who specialize in home study for counselors.

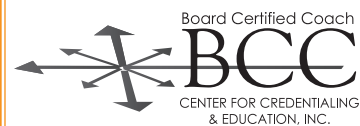
Earning CE credit doesn't have to be boring or tedious. If you need more ideas or information on what counts for CE credit for your NCC, visit [www.nbcc.org/serviceCenter/recertification/Default.aspx](http://www.nbcc.org/serviceCenter/recertification/Default.aspx).

# Celebrating Licensure in All 50 States

Continued from page 1

According to Dr. Clawson: "This meeting provides an important service to state licensure boards and professional counselors. By bringing together those identified in the states to regulate practice and those who provide national counseling examination standards, we are able to discuss current concerns, as well as make assessment plans that will support the future of the profession."

NBCC would like to express our gratitude to those state licensure board representatives who were able to participate in the recent meeting. For those who were unable to attend, we hope that you will be able to join us in the future.



The  
Center for  
Credentialing  
& Education

has launched a **NEW** international certification in coaching. The Board Certified Coach (BCC) accommodates coaches with bachelor's and advanced degrees. For details, visit [www.cce-global.org/coaching](http://www.cce-global.org/coaching).

## Your NCC Certification: Spreading the Word

Occasionally, we hear from NCCs that employers and insurance companies are not knowledgeable about NBCC, and the National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification and what it means. So, we've created two documents—one for employers and one for insurance companies—that offer facts about the NCC credential. We explain the requirements and the examination that NCCs must pass in order to be nationally certified, and why these two groups should actively seek NCCs to serve their clients. Need help promoting your NCC? Visit the "Promoting Your Certification" page on our Web site: [www.nbcc.org/serviceCenter/Promotion.aspx](http://www.nbcc.org/serviceCenter/Promotion.aspx).

## Writers/Researchers/Innovators: TPC – A New Resource for Our Profession

NBCC is now accepting submissions for our online journal—*The Professional Counselor: Research and Practice (TPC)*—and we encourage writers, researchers and others counseling professionals to submit articles for publication.

*TPC* publishes original, peer-reviewed manuscripts relating to mental health counseling; school counseling; career counseling; couples, marriage and family counseling; counseling supervision; theory development; professional counseling issues; international counseling issues; program applications; and integrative reviews of counseling and related fields. The first edition will be out in December 2010.

Visit the *TPC* page today and read about the vision behind its creation and how to be part of this exciting new resource for our profession.

You can find the manuscript submission form, manuscript instructions, policies and procedures, and other materials to assist you in the submission process at <http://tpcjournal.nbcc.org/>.

## Voluntary Audits

The NCCs listed below have completed and documented a minimum of 130 hours of continuing education activities in the five-year certification cycle. By doing so, they have demonstrated a dedication to excellence and professionalism. NBCC congratulates these outstanding NCCs.

Edward H. Fankhanel, San Juan, PR	Christy L. Parsons, Bel Air, MD
Lynne M. Lunsford, Farmville, VA	Stefanie T. Sheldon, Danville, VA
O. McFarland, Tucson, AZ	Timothy P. Winter, Shreveport, LA

## NEW CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDERS

Approved Since May 1, 2010

Abel Screening, Inc., #6454,  
Atlanta

Adelphi University Institute for  
Parenting, #6472,  
Garden City, NY

Advanced Clinical Training  
Institute, #6453,  
Gulf Shores, AL

Brown Distance Learning  
Program, #6463,  
Providence, RI

Bryan Consulting and Training,  
Inc., #6467,  
Tulsa, OK

Daymark Recovery Services, #6466,  
Concord, NC

Institute for Research on Gambling  
Disorders, #6474,  
Beverly, MA

Lifespan Integration, LLC, #6473,  
Roslyn, WA

McLeod Addictive Disease  
Center, #6465,  
Charlotte, NC

October Road, Inc., #6469,  
Asheville, NC

Project Fleur-de-lis, #6476,  
Metairie, LA

School of the Art Institute of Chicago/  
Art Therapy Program, #4553,  
Chicago

St. Anthony's Point, Inc., #6462,  
Hermitage, PA

The Change Companies, #6464,  
Carson City, NV

Theraplay Institute, #6470,  
Wilmette, IL

Troy University—Panama City/Tyndall  
AFB, #4552,  
Panama City, FL

Wake County Human Services, #6468,  
Raleigh, NC

Winthrop University, #4185,  
Rock Hill, SC

# NBCC GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Continued from page 2

will likely be a gradual process that will start with a few announcements and grow over time. NBCC and our allies will be working with the VA to disseminate information and ensure counselors are made aware of job opportunities. We welcome counselors to share with us their stories of success or hardship in obtaining positions within the VA so we can ensure full and fair access. We will also continue to press for an Occupational Series for the profession.

## TRICARE/Defense

On May 28, 2010, the “National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2011” (H.R. 5136) passed the House of Representatives. The House NDAA included in it a “sense of Congress” directing the Department of Defense to implement regulations providing TRICARE independent practice authority for licensed mental health counselors.

On June 4, 2010, the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) reported S. 3454, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011” to the Senate floor. The Senate NDAA included statutory language adding licensed mental health counselors to the list of independent practitioners under TRICARE provided that they met criteria established by the Institute of Medicine.

NBCC, along with ACA and AMHCA,

is pleased with the progress in both chambers of Congress, but remains committed to passing legislation that provides the greatest number of qualified counselors with independent practice authority. To accomplish this goal, the organizations are working with members and committee staff of the SASC and House Armed Services Committee (HASC) to promote the most inclusive language from both bills. Any compromise language will be considered by a conference of the two chambers, which cannot occur until the Senate approves its version of NDAA.

The Senate NDAA got caught in a political battle prior to the election and was not brought up for a vote. The conflict arose over Republican opposition to provisions in the bill that repeal the “don’t ask, don’t tell” law banning homosexuals from serving openly in the military and a proposal giving young illegal immigrants who attend college or join the military a path to citizenship. The legislation is a priority for Congress during the lame-duck session and negotiations continue over the provisions in controversy. If agreement can be reached, the bill will be passed in the Senate and brought to conference with the House NDAA to reach a final compromise bill.

NBCC, ACA and AMHCA have been meeting with offices of members of the Armed Services Committee in the House and Senate to build support for language that recognizes

licensed counselors. These offices, as well as committee staff, understand our position and are interested in getting something done this year. The challenge now is to include the broadest language in any final NDAA bill.

## Institute of Medicine

On October 13-15, the Institute of Medicine hosted a meeting entitled “A Quality Management System for Licensed Mental Health Counselors and Other Behavioral Health Professionals in the Military Health System.” Dr. Joseph Wehrman, a member of the NBCC Board of Directors, was selected as one of the distinguished presenters at the workshop, as was Dr. Jan McMillan, NCC and former president of AASCB.

The workshop focused on the development of a quality management system and scopes of practice for behavioral health professions within the military health system. It builds on the IOM report entitled the Provision of Mental Health Counseling Services under TRICARE, which included a recommendation for such a quality management system. Both Dr. Wehrman and Dr. McMillan presented on professional scopes of practice, demonstrating that all behavioral health professions have similar scopes and should be credentialed in a similar manner.

## COULD YOUR COUNSELING DEPARTMENT USE

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The first group of Distance Credentialed Counselors are currently recertifying their credentials, having reached the end of the five-year certification cycle.

For detailed information regarding the DCC and its recertification requirements, visit the CCE Web site at www.cce-global.org/credentials-offered/dccrecert.



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**Approvals**

NBCC #6261 NAADAC #599  
CBBS: PCE4556 CAADAC: os-09-109-0311  
Florida Boards of Nursing and Counseling #8363  
Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners #5009

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### Current Courses Offered:

Clinical Supervision: An Overview	<i>Psychology Today:</i> Who Has a Difficult Mom?
Clinical Supervision I and II	<i>Psychology Today:</i> Hypochondria, the Impossible Illness
Divorce Mediation	<i>Psychology Today:</i> The Expectations Trap
Family Counseling in Today's Schools	<i>Psychology Today:</i> Portrait of a Hunger Artist
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Psychiatric Epidemiology	Rural Mental Health
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Office of Admissions

215 67<sup>th</sup> St.

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[www.atlanticuniv.edu](http://www.atlanticuniv.edu)

[ceu@atlanticuniv.edu](mailto:ceu@atlanticuniv.edu)

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## 2009 NBCCF Scholarship Recipient Close-ups

*Editor's Note: This is the second of a three-part series profiling the recipients of the 2009 NBCCF scholarships. Look for more in the next issue of The NCC.*

### Louis Alvey



After his second deployment to Iraq with the Army National Guard, Louis Alvey realized that his military experience, coupled with an understanding of the needs of returning service members, placed him in a distinctive position. He'd been looking for a career where he could

draw on his experiences in the military and make a difference in his community. The profession of counseling fit the bill.

"I believe that supporting our veterans and the families of our veterans is an essential objective for communities in our nation," says Mr. Alvey. "The service members that have answered the call for our nation's military charge have needs associated with their service. Building a support network and being able to provide for them is a responsibility I look forward to fulfilling."

Being awarded the NBCCF military scholarship brought Mr. Alvey a certain amount of recognition and standing in his Lynchburg, Virginia, community. He has used it to continue his push for public awareness of returning service members and the difficulties that accompany the transition back to civilian life.

"It is inspiring to know that the needs of our veterans are recognized and provisions are being made for future success," says Mr. Alvey. "It is inspiring and challenging to know that the NBCCF has so honored me in this way."

### Alicia Higgins



Ever since she can remember, Alicia Higgins has wanted to work in the mental health field. But it wasn't until her first deployment to Kuwait that she realized "the importance of the art form known as counseling." A chance encounter with a young soldier traumatized

by combat experiences had a profound impact on her. ". . . I knew my dream of becoming a counselor needed to be fulfilled or realized, because I wanted to do nothing but offer some type of hope for this individual," she explains.

After completing her master's in community counseling, Ms. Higgins would like to work for either the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"My long-term goals include obtaining a doctoral degree, creating a program to assist service members and their families' readjustment to changes in their military life," says Ms. Higgins. She also plans to continue receiving as much training as possible in the areas of expressive arts therapy, and marriage and family therapy.

"Every interaction that I have with people, whether as a counselor, volunteer or counselor-in-training, I learn something about someone, something or myself. I try to remember that every opportunity that I have is an opportunity to learn and grow."

## 2009 NBCCF Scholarship Recipient Close-ups

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### Michelle Kolch



“Being an NCC is more than having initials after your name,” says Michelle Kolch. “It is more about being prepared to serve [and] having the knowledge to strive for excellence.”

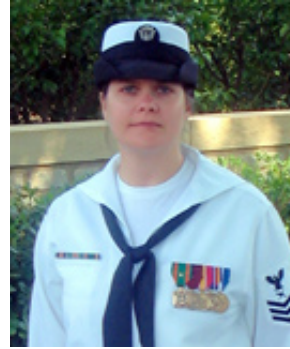
Currently pursuing a master’s in community counseling at Slippery Rock

University in Pennsylvania, Ms. Kolch is planning to return as a postgrad to obtain her gerontology certificate. “This will allow me to work with a population I feel is underserved, and with the aging of the baby boomers, will be a huge population that will require competent counselors who are aware of their unique issues,” she explains.

Passionate about supervision and teaching, her long-term goals include earning a doctorate and continuing her counseling advocacy efforts through guest speaking, writing and educating future counselors.

An eyewitness to the devastating effects of the bad economy on small-town America, she is a firm believer in providing services where they are needed. “I believe it is our duty as mental health professionals to always give to your community,” she says. “When I begin my own practice, I pledge to provide pro bono services to a percentage of my caseload. I also plan on holding group counseling sessions in my community to address specific issues for free in order to serve a larger population.”

### Marlana Robertshaw



In high school, Marlana Robertshaw was very interested in helping others and even had the idea to create and run a school help hotline. Although the hotline idea didn’t come to fruition, the desire to help others remained.

For most of her 20-year stint in the Navy, Ms. Robertshaw was not in a position to become a counselor, but she continued to work on her education and completed a bachelor’s in psychology. Finally, during her last five years of service she had the opportunity to become a career counselor and a certified Navy counselor.

Now pursuing a master’s in counseling at Youngstown State University in Ohio, Ms. Robertshaw is gaining knowledge and experience working with women with AOD (alcohol and other drug) issues.

“I have an interest in miscarriage grief counseling specifically, but have not found anything specific for treatment and recovery,” says Ms. Robertshaw. “My goal is to do further research and possibly to build a group setting type of treatment for miscarriage grief.”

She is also looking into working with the local VA clinic and women veterans, and possibly creating an outreach program to reach female veterans and let them know about mental health resources in the Ohio Mahoning Valley.

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## NCC NETWORK



**Lance Goede, NCC**, of Riverton, Wyoming, and the “lone ranger” counselor at Central Wyoming College (CWC) in Riverton, received the Outstanding Service Award from the Wyoming Counseling Association. This award was presented at its annual fall conference. Mr.

Goede serves on the

Wyoming Mental Health Professionals Licensing Board representing licensed professional counselors. He started his career as the housing director at CWC before moving into the counseling position, where he serves on the college’s behavioral intervention team.

### GOT NEWS?

If you would like to submit an item for NCC Network, refer to the guidelines and deadlines on our Web site: [www.nbcc.org/newsletter/guidelines](http://www.nbcc.org/newsletter/guidelines).

## Counseling in Nigeria and Botswana

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together approximately 40 participants, including counselors from Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria and the United States.

BCA is a relatively new counseling association in Africa, having been launched in 2007. Now with more than 120 members, BCA, like CASSON, is hoping to gain official recognition by its government. They have drafted the Botswana Counselling Act with other relevant stakeholders, and are currently discussing the act and the legislative process with appropriate Botswana ministries that may house it.

NBCC’s board and staff continue to be committed to expanding knowledge of counseling and certification standards in other countries with the hopes of better informing counseling practice at home.

## ATTENTION Addiction Counselors in Indiana

Recently, the Indiana Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board created a subcommittee to examine the different certifications requesting to be approved in lieu of the state’s level II certification. NBCC’s Master Addictions Counselor (MAC) is one of the credentials accepted by the board as meeting level II requirements.

For more information, please visit [www.in.gov/pla/3051.htm](http://www.in.gov/pla/3051.htm).