

**The 2015-2016 Annual Report for the  
Counseling Program at West Virginia University**

This has been another good year for the counseling program at West Virginia University. The program graduated 9 in the school program and 10 in the clinical mental health program (accredited as community counseling until our next accrediting cycle which will be in 2017). The program had a 100% pass rate for those who took the Praxis II for school counselors and an 88% pass rate for those who took the National Counseling Examination. The program currently has 56 students which includes first year students, second year students, and a few part-time students.

Currently the faculty is made up of:

Dr. Ed Jacobs—Coordinator

Dr. Chis Schimmel—Coordinator of the school program

Dr. Monica Leppma—Field Placement Coordinator

\*Dr. Jennifer Taylor—split appointment with Counseling Psychology

Heidi O'Toole—Visiting Instructor

Dr. Jeff Daniels—Department Chairperson

The program also has outstanding adjuncts who teach and supervise for us.

We are in the process of actively searching for a full-time faculty member who has a school counseling background who will start in Fall, 2017

**\*Note:** Dr. Jennifer Taylor was a faculty member the past 3 years. She recently accepted a position at the University of Utah. We will miss her and wish her well—she was an outstanding professor and role model for the students.

### **Summary of Program Evaluations**

Each year we send out evaluation surveys to recent graduates and their employers, supervisors of our students, and our current students. Overall the evaluations we received were positive with many compliments regarding the program. Also there were some suggestions for ways to improve the program which we are definitely working on. Our goal is to make this a program where students enjoy the experience while becoming very competent practitioners. Below are a small sample of some of the responses.

#### **Positives**

- 94% of supervisors who responded agreed or strongly agreed that the faculty and staff of the WVU Counseling Program do a good job in preparing students.
  
- 94% of responding supervisors agreed or strongly agreed they would recommend the WVU counselor preparation program to others.

- 93% of responding first year students agreed or strongly agreed they would recommend the WVU counselor preparation program to others.
- 100% of responding first year students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt the program generated in them enthusiasm for the counseling profession.
- 100% of responding first year students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt the program provided a supportive, open environment in which to explore their professional identity.
- 93% of responding second year students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt the program generated in them enthusiasm for the counseling profession.

### **Program Modifications**

This year was an important year because the faculty worked on the self-study for the site visit for CACREP accreditation which will be in September. One aspect of the work was to develop a comprehensive assessment plan for evaluating students and the program. The plan includes key performance indicators that are measured in multiple ways at multiple times during the program. The faculty also added exit interviews for students at the end of their internship where the student presents his or her portfolio/website and discusses aspects of their specialty area. During the exit interview, time is spent discussing future plans and job searches in an effort to help graduates find the position that they want. Other improvements we are looking into include more specific school related information in the careers, assessment, and ethics classes.

### **Closing Comments:**

The faculty wants to thank all of you who are a part of this program in some way. We, the faculty, are continuing to work hard to make the program at WVU one of the best in the country. We are committed to training outstanding school and clinical mental health counselors. We know we can do better and we believe that 2016-2017 will be a good year. We are excited to have internationally known, Dr. Pat Love on campus for the Fall, 2016 semester. Also, we look forward to feedback from the CACREP site team visitation.