

## Radford University Counselor Education Annual Report

AY 2022-23

Dr. Nadine Hartig, Chair

The Department of Counselor Education had a productive and busy year during 2022-23. We continue to deliver a high-quality program, invest in our students, and continue to innovate to utilize our resources as wisely as possible.

### **Personnel Changes in the Department of Counselor Education**

We had the opportunity to welcome Dr. Bethany Lanier to our faculty as a fulltime Special Purpose position. Dr. Lanier is a Licensed Professional Counselor and National Certified Counselor. Her master's degree is from Radford University and her doctoral studies were completed at Auburn University. She has a range of clinical experiences that include counseling inmates, child and family counseling, substance abuse counseling, and career counseling in higher education settings over the last 7 years. Dr. Lanier has presented research related to areas of counselor development and preparation, vicarious trauma and subthreshold PTSD among counselors, recidivism rates among incarcerated individuals, best practices in counseling, and ethical considerations in substance abuse counseling. We are thrilled that Dr. Lanier joined us this year in a permanent position. She complements our departmental expertise.

We also had two retirements in our department. Both Dr. Forrest and Dr. Scott have spent the majority of their careers with our department, generously giving so much energy and wisdom to their students, colleagues, and communities. They both embody lives and careers well lived. The faculty met throughout the semester to plan for their departure in order to continue to provide our strong and vibrant program. We have offered three extra orientations to students to assist with a streamlined transition.

## **CACREP Reaccreditation**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Abingdon Cohort Begins**

The Department of Counselor Education was awarded a Virginia Tobacco Commission Grant to expand our program offerings to the Southwest Higher Education Center in Abingdon, VA. We are indebted to Dr. Theresa Burris and Ms. Amanda Estep-Baldwin for their hard work recruiting and organizing our Abingdon cohort. As a department, we feel strongly that training counselors in Southwest Virginia is critical. We were able to offer a second cohort with the grant, and we are thrilled to be able to continue to find innovative ways to support communities and schools in southwest Virginia.

### **Productivity of the Department of Counselor Education**

Our program is viable and productive. We invest heavily in our students while they are in our program. We care deeply about their counselor development and will continue to offer high quality training experiences that result in marketable and knowledgeable students. Our enrollment is currently 65 students (48 CMHC and 17 SC).

100% of our graduating students secure a job in the counseling field. Those that do not seek counseling employment typically chose to change their career paths.

### **Summary of Assessment Results for 2019-20**

Utilizing the Student Learning Outcome rubrics which are compiled every semester, the COED program is able to efficiently evaluate and measure students' successful attainment of CACREP standards. In each course, the department records the percentage of students who meet each standard assigned to that course, and indicates the method of evaluating that standard. Among these standards, there are two Key Point Indicators (KPI's) assigned to 10 classes for a total of 20.

Each standard was met by at least 85% of the students in all KPIs.

### **Initiatives in Counselor Education**

We continue to develop and strengthen our connections, collaborations, and partnerships with other Radford University (RU) programs. We currently have a partnership with the Music Therapy master's program, and their students take our three counseling courses for their degree. We routinely support the School of Social Work and Psychology departments each semester as we also have students from those departments who take our courses. We work closely with the Career Services office in support of our COED 260 undergraduate course, titled "Seminar in Career Development."

We also continue our long standing partnerships with agencies and organizations in the community, including Radford City Schools, Montgomery County Schools, Pulaski County schools, Integrated Behavioral Health programs, and New River Community Services Board. We are finishing a four-year federal Behavioral Health Workforce Enhancement Training Grant, where

two to four Counselor Education students are awarded paid internships and additional training in substance use disorder treatment. We completed a three-year Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth grant, which will allow students opportunities to work in the community to enhance the health and wellness of children and families.

#### **Curriculum Changes for 2023-24**

We met a barrier in moving forward on increasing our school counseling program to the full 60 hours by 2022-23. We are still waiting on approval from the state. As a result, we did not admit any school counseling students for 2022-23. Our hope is to have this issue resolved by December and be able to admit school counseling students for Fall 2024.

We continue to add additional information related to multicultural issues to our courses throughout the curriculum to ensure our students are best prepared for their future work in diverse communities.

#### **Looking Ahead to 2023-24**

We are looking forward to an exciting new year, as we train our students across two campuses , continue to work on our initiatives, and most importantly, train a new group of future counselors. Our strengths lie in our teaching, supervision, and clinical practice. We continue to be strong stewards of our profession, and students continue to learn the practice of counseling effectively. We also continue to work on providing opportunities for our department to explore issues of social justice and diversity in our field. Finally, we actively make use of our assessment processes to inform and improve our program.