

TEXAS COUNSELING ASSOCIATION 62ND ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL GROWTH CONFERENCE

Awards Ceremony Program

Dallas, Texas | November 15, 2018



2018 TEXAS COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Melissa Alvarado, Co-Chair

Janie Wood, Co-Chair

Carolyn Greer

Debra Denson-Whitehead

Mary Donaghey

Jane Hill

Dilani Perera-Diltz

TEXAS COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

AWARDS CEREMONY PROGRAM

Chaparrel Room, 38th Floor Sheraton Dallas Hotel
Dallas, TX, November 15, 2018, 7 pm

WELCOME

Melissa Alvarado and Janie Wood

PRESENTATION OF TCA PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

TCA Awards Committee

WILLIAM E. TRUAX FOUNDER'S AWARD

Le'Ann Solmonson & B.J. Broaden-Barksdale

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

Cyndi Doyle, TCA Past President

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECOGNITION

Cyndi Doyle, TCA Past President

EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT GRANT RECIPIENT RECOGNITION

Educational Endowment Fund Committee

CLOSING

Carrie Proctor, TCA President

2018 JAMESANNA KIRVEN OUTSTANDING COUNSELOR AWARD

MICHAEL DEVOLL



Michael DeVoll is an LPC-Supervisor and works in private practice, with more than 10 years prior experience as a school counselor in a private school. He specializes in working with young men and the LGBTQ community. Michael is currently co-owner of The Wellness Collective, a group of like-minded mental health care providers who offer holistic services to a range of populations. In May 2018, Michael was honored as Professional Counselor of the Year by the Houston Counseling Association.

Michael earned a BFA in Photography/Video and an MEd in Educational Psychology/Counseling from the University of Houston. He serves as TCA's Region 1 Director as well as co-chair of the TCA Strategic Planning Committee and Board representative to the TCA Finance Committee. He also serves on the ACA Branch Development Committee. Michael is a past trustee for State Division/Membership of the Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Issues in Counseling (ALGBTIC), a division of the American Counseling Association and a past trustee and past president of the Texas Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Issues in Counseling (TALGBTIC), a division of TCA and a state branch of ALGBTIC.

In addition to his direct counseling and supervision work, Michael is co-founder of This Side of the Rainbow, a week-long summer day-camp for LGBTQ+ teens. He also hosts Pathfinders Retreat, a 3-day retreat for men in their 20s who are searching to find their path forward in life. Additionally, he offers a range of educational programs for mental health care providers and others as a registered CE provider for LPCs in Texas.

In his personal life, Michael sings in the choir and serves on the Justice & Peace Council for Christ Church (Episcopal) Cathedral in Houston. After more than 20 years together, Michael is now happily married to Gary Gee.

2018 MOLLY GEROLD HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

DEREK L. ROBERTSON



Derek Robertson began his counseling career in 1994 and counts himself fortunate to have worked with diverse clients in a wide range of settings including the foster care system, AIDS service organizations, and the military. He is an assistant professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio where his research is focused on multicultural counseling competency and social justice issues. Derek helped develop the Bilingual Counseling Certificate program at UTSA, as well as a study abroad program that is focused on

promoting the perspective of immigrants and indigenous peoples.

Derek Robertson, PhD, received his doctoral degree from the College of William and Mary in 2013. His awards and recognition include the 2018 TACES Outstanding Advocacy Award, the 2009 Distinguished Services Award from AIDS Outreach Center, and the 2007 Equality Texas Service Award.

Derek is a co-principal investigator on a Victims of Crime Act grant to serve communities affected by the Sutherland Springs shooting in November of 2017. He has served on the board of the Texas Association for Counselor Education and Supervision as the liaison to the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors. Derek served on the ACA Public Policy and Legislation Committee and is currently on the editorial board for the Journal for Creativity in Mental Health.

2018 TCA ADVOCACY AWARD

SHARON BEY



Sharon Bey is a veteran school counselor who retired from Cypress Fairbanks ISD after 33 years of experience. She currently works as the Coordinator of School Counselors for Waller ISD.

Sharon has been a TCA member since 1984 and has served on the TCA Board of Directors and the TCA Strategic Planning Committee. She has also been a member of Texas School Counselor Association (TSCA) since 1984; her tenure includes service as

President of TSCA, TSCA Director on the TCA Board as well as many years of service on the TSCA Board and as a TSCA Committee Chair. In addition to TSCA division membership, Sharon is also a member of Texas Counselors for Social Justice, Texas Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development, and Texas Association for Humanistic Education and Development.

Sharon is a passionate and dynamic advocate who has testified multiple times before the Texas Legislature and been interviewed by local, state and national media outlets on the impact school counselors have on student safety and success. Sharon believes that school counselors are essential to the mental health of students. She advocates for schools to remove non-counseling duties from counselors, so that they can implement the Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs and focus on the academic, career, and social/emotional development of their students.

2018 LAYPERSON EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARD

PAT ROSENBERG



Greater Houston has been enriched by Pat Rosenberg's involvement in community organizations that make policies affecting underprivileged children or provide direct services to them.

Pat's engagement began with volunteer leadership while her daughters attended Houston public schools. After their graduations, Pat became a full-time volunteer.

Pat's interest in the needs of the underprivileged youth led to service as a Communities in Schools (CIS) board member, a non-profit focused on dropout prevention. Pat became a significant asset to one of her CIS students, a story so compelling it was reported in the Wall Street Journal.

Pat served for two years as President of the Texas Association of Partners in Education, a group that promotes innovation as well as building and sustaining effective education partnerships. One of Pat's most significant endeavors is as co-chair of Link Up Houston, an annual conference for middle and high school students. For 12 years, she arranged monthly meetings of more than 20 youth-serving organizations to provide up to 1,000 students opportunities to grow through positive experiences based on the 40 Developmental Assets.

She has been honored by both Houston ISD and CIS for her lifetime service to education.

2018 RESEARCH AWARD

JOSHUA WATSON



Joshua C. Watson is a professor and chair in the department of counseling and educational psychology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Joshua has worked as a counselor educator for the past 16 years; and supports his classroom instruction with more than 18 years of clinical experience working in a variety of community mental health, higher education, and private practice settings.

An accomplished scholar, Joshua has authored more than 90 publications and presented his research at various state, national, and international professional counseling conferences; many of which represent collaborations with his students.

Joshua has been an active ACA member for nearly 20 years. In addition to currently serving as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of College Counseling*, he has held leadership positions in ACA and its divisions including as a member of the ACA Governing Council, chair of the ACA Council of Journal Editors, and president for the Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling. Within TCA, Joshua serves as Director for the Texas Association for Humanistic Education and Development and Associate Editor of the *Journal of Professional Counseling: Practice, Theory & Research*.

In recognition of his scholarship and service to the profession, Joshua has been honored by various counseling organizations. Most notably, he is a past recipient of ACA's David K. Brooks Distinguished Mentor, Arthur A. Hitchcock Distinguished Professional Service, and Ralph F. Berdie Memorial Research awards as well as the ACCA Outstanding Contribution to Knowledge award. In 2018, Joshua was named an American Counseling Association Fellow.

2018 RESEARCH AWARD

STEPHEN LENZ



A. Stephen Lenz is an Associate Professor in the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Nationally Certified Counselor. Stephen is the Project Director for the Texas Counselors and Healthcare Integration Project and currently provides consulting services to several school districts for school-based strategies for multi-tiered intervention for youth. His programs provide training and support for students,

clinicians, and administrators to deliver evidence-supported treatments to individuals who are experiencing a trauma response.

Stephen and his practice-based research team have had a substantial impact in promoting individual and community resilience within South Texas in response to the health inequities magnified by Hurricane Harvey and other regional stressors.

Stephen's activities have been acknowledged through his receipt of the American Counseling Association's Best Practices Award and the Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling's Exemplary Practices in Counseling Research and Assessment Award.

2018 OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

MYNIKA COLLINS



Mynika Collins is a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Mynika is a dedicated and enthusiastic learner seeking the best training to become a competent and effective counselor.

Mynika has been identified as an Emerging Leader by the Association for Humanistic Counseling where she is also an assistant editor for their InfoChange newsletter. Additionally, she serves on the TCA Membership Committee.

Mynika enjoys working with children. She is currently an intern at Kate Bell Elementary School, where she works with students about test anxiety and mental health awareness. Mynika will graduate in December 2018 and is looking forward to being a voice for marginalized communities.

2018 OUTSTANDING TCA CHAPTER AWARD

HOUSTON COUNSELING ASSOCIATION



The Houston Counseling Association was a model chapter during the 2017-18 fiscal year. This was evidenced by the enthusiastic participation of members and officers in a range of programs and by an impressive increase in membership. These milestones were accomplished by HCA's dedicated leadership team, headed by President Michael Leshner.

HCA's social outreach activities helped encourage participation and engagement of members. The annual Winter Social and Spring Awards Banquet were amped up this year by hosting the events at fun, casual Houston venues. Invitations were open to both members and friends of HCA. New participants were enticed with the opportunity to earn free CE hours and a Silent Auction to support the HCA Scholarship Fund.

The chapter also focused on human rights and social justice issues. Presentations included LGBT Adolescent Issues, Trauma Informed Yoga, and Ethics in Counseling. For this year's community service projects, officers and members volunteered to participate in the Houston Mental Health Awareness Walk as volunteers and sponsored a team for the Houston NAMI Walk.

HCA leadership introduced some technological updates such as the use of email and Google Forms to manage event registrations. There was also an increase in social media activity. In an effort to reach members more directly, the HCA board initiated membership phone calls. Other efforts to increase membership included low- to no-cost professional development for non-members, "friend of counseling" invites to most events, and open invites to join HCA's Facebook page. This advocacy was very successful, as evidenced by the 50 percent membership increase, ending the fiscal year with 150 members! All of this illustrates how a chapter, with some effort of a passionate and committed leadership team, can flourish.

2018 WILLIAM E. TRUAX FOUNDER'S AWARD

VALERIE SMITH

The William E. Truax Founder's Award is the highest award bestowed to an individual TCA member by the Texas Counseling Association. Awarded to affirm significant contributions to the counseling profession over a long period of time, the William E. Truax Founder's Award recognizes an individual's global vision and substantial, professional impact at a national, regional, or statewide level.



Valerie Smith became a Certified School Counselor and Special Education Counselor in 1974 and a Licensed Professional Counselor in 1984. Val has been actively involved with counseling in PreK-12th grade; however, her heart is in the elementary school. She has worked in Irving, Arlington, and Dallas ISDs where she developed a Comprehensive School Counseling Program at every elementary school in which she served. Her outstanding work serving

students was recognized in 2009 through two prized awards: the Texas School Counseling Association CREST recognition and the TSCA Elementary School Counselor of the Year.

Over the years, Val has been a consistent and active leader in the Texas Counseling Association. She has served on multiple committees, including the task force that was responsible for the last major revision of the TCA Bylaws and Governance Manual. She is a two-time past president of TCA.

Val is a strong leader in the Texas Counseling Association and a member who has given distinguished service to the counseling profession. She has served in numerous leadership positions in TCA, TSCA and TAADA, as well as in her local chapter. She also served as the TCA liaison to the Texas LPC Board. She was the recipient of the Texas Counseling Association's Presidential Award in 1999.

Valerie is a rare individual who has made a significant impact on the counseling profession and the Texas Counseling Association, including chapters and divisions. She loves the children of Texas and has dedicated her life to the counseling profession. She lives her life reflecting the requirements of the Truax Founder's Award.

2018 TCA PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

JAMES SMITH

The Texas Counseling Association Presidential Award is given to honor individuals who have given outstanding service or leadership to TCA or the counseling profession.



James Smith has given both outstanding service and leadership to TCA and the counseling profession since his first affiliation with TCA more than 20 years ago. TCA became James Smith's professional home in graduate school. From there, James has consistently stepped up whenever asked to volunteer.

James began his TCA leadership journey as a Texas Mental Health Counselors Association board member. From there, he served 3-years as the TMHCA Senator and then another 3-years as their Director on the TCA Board. A strong advocate, James served two terms on the TCA Public Policy Committee, providing essential guidance on key legislation and public policy issues. Most recently, James served as TCA Treasurer, Co-Chair of the TCA Finance Committee, and a member of the TCA Strategic Planning Committee, positions he held since 2014.

Years of service is not the only reason James is being recognized. It is because of all he does to help TCA grow and strengthen. Throughout his tenure with TCA, James consistently brings a strong voice of reason, a respect for tradition, a willingness to explore new opportunities, and a focus on systems and sustainability.

During James' tenure, TCA's governance structure improved while retaining the strong foundation that began in 1947. Our bylaws and governance manual reflect best practices. Our elections allow for more member engagement and better preparation of our volunteer leaders.

TCA as well as the counseling profession have significantly grown because of James' leadership and service.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

JULY 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2018

TCA DIRECTORS & APPOINTEES

Cyndi Doyle
Past President

James Smith
Treasurer

Dean Aslinia
Secretary

Mike Moyer
Parliamentarian

Lisa Pearson
*TALGBTIC Texas
Association for Lesbian,
Gay, Bisexual and
Transgender Issues in
Counseling*

Chester Robinson
*TCDA Texas Career
Development Association*

Diana Villarreal
*TSCA Texas School
Counselor Association*

TCA DIVISION & CHAPTER SENATORS

Paul Irby
Big Country CA

Tiffany Stewart
Greenbelt CA

Ebony Stewart
Heart of Texas CA

Brandi Carroll
Mid-Texas CA

Faye Wallace
High Plains CA

John Crawford
North Central Texas CA

Denine Hammonds
Northern Metro CA

Eva Cedillo
Permian Basin CA

TCA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Pam Love-White
*Nominations & Elections,
Chair*

Pam Love-White
Program Review, Chair

Kira Holt
Awards, Co-Chair

Alex Monceaux
Bylaws, Co-Chair

Kathleen Phelan
EEF, Co-Chair

Steve Bain
Ethics, Co-Chair

Angie Cartwright
*Graduate Student,
Co-Chair*

Brandy Pounds
Public Policy, Co-Chair

Teri Sartor
Public Policy, Co-Chair

Stephen Lenz
Research Chair

Bret Hendricks
*Strategic Planning,
Co-Chair*

John Spoede
*Strategic Planning,
Co-Chair*

EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND

GRANT RECIPIENTS

TCA provides Educational Endowment Fund grants on a competitive basis to TCA members. These grants support research projects, professional development and educational opportunities for those members who have belonged to TCA for at least twelve months before application.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

DECEMBER 2017

Karl Witt

Tyler, TX

Christine McNichols

Tyler, TX

KeriTe Hughes

Houston, TX

Derek Robertson

San Antonio, TX

APRIL 2018

Ye Luo

Corpus Christi

Rachelle Morales

Corpus Christi, TX

Felix Murad

Corpus Christi, TX

Odunola Oyeniya

Corpus Christi, TX

AUGUST 2018

Cory Knight

San Antonio, TX

Elliott Woehler

Denton, TX

2018 TEXAS COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Yajaira Diaz, Co-Chair

Joane Davis, Co-Chair

Steve Samet

Pedra Ane

Amy Lenhart

LaShondra Manning

Alex Monceaux

2018 TEXAS COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

ADVISORY COUNCIL OF PAST PRESIDENTS (ACOPP)

The Advisory Council of Past Presidents is comprised of active TCA past presidents. The purpose of ACOPP is to provide a historical context to TCA. Additionally, ACOPP nominates and selects an individual to receive the William E. Truax Founder's Award each year.

Le'Ann Solmonson, Co-Chair

B.J. Broaden-Barksdale, Co-Chair

Don McCormick

Bret Hendricks

Judy Nelson

Carolyn Greer

Susan Adams

Denny Engels

Jean Cokins

Congratulations
to all the
Award Winners!