

THE CULTURAL NETWORK

From the Desk of the President

Dr. Paul Leung

Dear fellow NAMRC members and friends:

It is spring and what a wonderful time of the year. Though many of us (in Texas at least) didn't have much of a winter, the short days did feel a bit limiting for someone like myself who likes being outdoors.

The change of longer days, warmer weather and the blossoming of flowers brings about a new outlook and the hope of new days ahead.

I know that many of us have been discouraged by the slow pace of legislation in Washington and the often lack of recognition that rehabilitation and persons with disabilities are important. We will never be able to be truly a great society until all of our members (especially persons with disabilities from diverse ethnic backgrounds) are able to fully participate and contribute. Unfortunately, we may never know what we have missed collectively because we continue to put up barriers rather than paving the way forward. But like springtime, things are changing albeit slowly. NAMRC, I believe, has a role and a responsibility.

As an organization we have made inroads. We need to look no further than our annual training conferences. We are people representative of a rainbow or tapestry or whatever metaphor you choose. We are truly more diverse as a group than many of the other organizations to which we belong. We have individually and collectively advocated in myriad ways for inclusion and integration. Our own ethnic groups have often left disability off the their agenda and need

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prodding that civil rights and human rights can only occur when disability is addressed fully. But we know that the struggle must continue.

On another note, as most of you know, I am primarily a rehabilitation counselor educator. Books are important to me and to educators generally. Bill Talley, Priscilla Sanderson, Carl Flowers and I began a project a few years ago to develop a textbook on multicultural rehabilitation. With the assistance of Jason Andrew (publisher and editor), that project is coming into fruition. Many NAMRC members have been involved and we hope that the book will debut at our conference in Detroit this July. The editors have pledged that any profit we are entitled to will be donated to NAMRC.

Because of this, I have no hesitation asking your help in marketing the book. Let your colleagues, peers, employers and your former instructors know of this new resource. Buy a copy for yourself. The majority of contributors will be at our conference so you can praise or damn them.

Thanks again for the opportunity of serving as your President. Continue to let us know what we can do to make your membership worthwhile and meaningful.

Paul

2006 Board Update

The Association is pleased to welcome Bryan Sykes, NAMRC Membership Chair to the NAMRC Board. We are saddened to say goodbye to newly elected Board member Dr. Shonda McLaughlin, but look forward to her continued service to NAMRC.

Bryan has been the membership chair for NAMRC for several years and is the President-Elect for OAMRC (the Oklahoma chapter of NAMRC). We look forward to our continued work alongside him.

Bryan Sykes – (OK)

Other NAMC members interested in serving the Association by serving on committees or volunteering for the 14th Annual Conference in Detroit, July 19–23rd, may contact President Paul Leung or President-elect Chandra Donnell to express your interest.



*2006 14th Annual
Conference Update!!!*

Reinventing Rehabilitation in a Diverse World: Achieving Professional Excellence

As the world of rehabilitation is constantly changing and evolving, it is imperative that NAMRC remain a constant force promoting education and awareness on the central needs of multicultural rehabilitation consumers and professionals.

Conference Chairs Fran Howze and Terrie Hylton and the conference committee along with Conference Program Chairs, Drs. L. Robert McConnell and Tennyson Wright and their committee are diligently working to develop an exciting and engaging conference for us in the Motor City of Detroit! The tentative program schedule will be available soon at:

www.NAMRC.org

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE NOW THROUGH MAY 31ST!!

Go to www.NAMRC.org to register now!!

The 14th Annual NAMRC Conference will be held at:

The Atheneum Suite Hotel & Conference Center
1000 Brush Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48826
(313) 962-2323

Visit them on the web at:
www.atheneumsuites.com

NAMRC Mission Statement

NAMRC is a diverse group whose purpose is to advocate for the rehabilitation needs of multicultural persons with disabilities and equitable services; and enhance the development of multicultural rehabilitation professionals.

NAMRC Member Updates...

Tyra Rice Hawkins, Past-President of NAMRC, Board member and NAMRC's NRA Representative was one of two recipients of the **2005 RRTC William H. Graves Research and Training Utilization Award** winners through Mississippi State University RRTC on Blindness & Low Vision.

Please join us in congratulating Tyra on her accomplishment!



The Student Corner

Rep Report

Submitted by Lakeysha J. McLaurin

Greetings NAMRC Student Membership!

Planning is well underway for student activities at the upcoming 2006 annual conference, have you registered? This year's events are guaranteed to tickle your intellect as well as your funny bone!

Don't miss the opportunity to get your free laugh therapy as the Student Outreach Committee (SOC) presents an evening of professional comedians for your pleasure. Special guest include Ms. Simply Shanell and more.

In addition, the SOC will host a panel discussion pertaining to diverse certifications that are available for practicing rehabilitation professionals. Invited experts will speak on subject areas including Certified Rehabilitation Counselors, Licensed Professionals Counseling, Vocational Expert Testimony and more. Simply put, this is not a conference you want to miss!

In other news, \$1000 is waiting for you. The NAMRC Scholarship Award is available to graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in rehabilitation related programs. Please see the NAMRC website for application and qualification information today—don't wait!



*Check out NAMRC's
New Web Site!*

Our website is steadily growing!! Go to www.NAMRC.org for enhanced, user-friendly access to information, useful updates and important news and issues relevant to multicultural persons in the rehabilitation community. All Conference 2006 information is now available on the web!!

The *Cultural Network Newsletter* will also be featured exclusively on our new site at www.NAMRC.org/newsletters.htm. Electronic delivery allows for broader distribution of news relevant to the NAMRC community. However, if you would like to receive the *NAMRC Cultural Network Newsletter* in an alternative format please contact Chandra Donnell with your relevant contact information.

Lastly, the time has come for NAMRC students to start talking and get connected. The number of students entering the field increases yearly. If you are interested in being added to a listserv of NAMRC students, submit your request to lmclauri7@msu.edu. Professional networking is imperative to our success! Continue to look for exciting news pertaining to students in the Student Corner of upcoming issues.

Lakeysha J. McLaurin
NAMRC Student Representative

Conference 2006:
PRECONFERENCE SESSION ON MENTORING
Wednesday, July 18, 2006



“Wisdom from the Elders”: Mentoring the Next Generation of Rehabilitation Counseling Professionals of Color by Imparting Wisdom, Ethics, and Strengthening a Mighty Legacy

Facilitated by: Drs. Tyra Turner Whittaker, Keith Wilson and Chandra Donnell

As the number of rehabilitation counseling professionals of color continues to grow, an increased need exists to assess the nature and the level of mentoring being provided to this new group of professionals. Receiving knowledge from those who are “seasoned” in the field of rehabilitation counseling is critical to the longevity of the profession.

This half-day program will provide a panel discussion hosted by noted administrative and educational leaders of color in the field of rehabilitation counseling. These leaders will dispense knowledge regarding some of the successes and struggles that people of color undergo in the profession. Issues of ethics and leadership roles will also be addressed.

Additionally, attendees will participate in activities to develop and forge formal and informal mentoring relationships-especially between the new and seasoned professionals in attendance; along with activities focused on the development of peer-mentor relationships.

The opportunity to interact with some of the great leaders of color in rehabilitation...

PRICELESS!!

To register and for additional program information, please forward: 1) your name; 2) e-mail address; 3) current professional/academic status; and 4) current place of employment/academic institution to:

Dr. Tyra Turner Whittaker, CRC
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2006-2007

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The National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC) publishes this newsletter.

Editor: Chandra M. Donnell, Ph.D., CRC

Submissions to the *Cultural Network Newsletter* should be in MS Word or .rtf format. Submissions should be made via e-mail to the Newsletter Editor at cdonnell@msu.edu.

Photos should be submitted as JPEG files. Contact information should be included with your submission. Please note that submissions may be edited for length.

The *Cultural Network Newsletter* is published 4 times a year with a special Election issue in December. Remaining Submission deadlines for 2006 are:

April 1	March/April/May Issue
July 1	June/July/August Issue
Oct 1	Sept/Oct/November Issue
Nov 15	December - Election Issue

2006 National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns Scholarship and Awards Call for Nominations

Do you know of an individual or organization that you would like to nominate for outstanding commitment to awareness of multicultural issues and exemplary service in the field of rehabilitation?

Perhaps, you know of a student at the undergraduate or graduate level, who is pursuing a career in rehabilitation or a related field?

Be reminded that nominations for the NAMRC Awards and Scholarships are still being accepted. The deadline for submissions is May 20, 2006. **Do not miss out on an opportunity to highlight your current and future colleagues.** Let them know that the work they are doing really does make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities!

Information regarding scholarship and awards criteria can be found at our website, www.NAMRC.org.

For more information, please contact Scholarship, Chair and Awards, Co-Chair, Ms. Jenelle Pitt at pittj1@michigan.gov or (313) 957-3360.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.NAMRC.org

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