

THE CULTURAL NETWORK

From the Desk of the President

Dr. Chandra M. Donnell

Dear fellow NAMRC members and friends:

It is spring again and indeed a busy time for NAMRC. We are quickly approaching our 15th Annual Training Conference in Oklahoma City, OK, July 18th - 22nd. We are sincerely hoping that you will be able to attend. Our program involves various cultural and social activities, rich content sessions, and networking opportunities to give you a quality conference! Our planning is in full swing and we are dedicated to providing an enriching conference.

I believe this is my first address to you as President and so I would like to share just a few highlights with you about my hopes for NAMRC during the next two years. NAMRC membership is comprised of bright scholars and innovative practitioners. With this power we can further enhance our mission by creating a forum for scholarship solely dedicated to education, training and practice concerns for multicultural and diverse populations. Our most recent Past-President, Paul Leung, and I are working to plant the seed for this new direction for NAMRC in the form of a scholarly journal and are excited about the possibilities.

NAMRC is also busy working toward enhancing our organizations' place in the profession. I am sincerely dedicated to continue to catapult the National Association for Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns to the forefront of the profession and enhance its notoriety as THE organization known for promoting equity and social justice for multicultural persons and diverse issues in rehabilitation. In this issue, you will find information regarding one the Boards first steps in this direction with a new mission statement. Our hope is that this new mission will better guide our efforts and will better represent the true nature of NAMRC during these dynamic and challenging times.

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During these ever-changing times in rehabilitation, it is imperative that the concerns and issues facing multicultural persons are heard. NAMRC is the platform for that voice. NAMRC is developing partnerships to enhance that voice. We are partnering with the newly formed NCRE Council on Diversity and Equity chaired by NAMRC's own Brenda Cartwright, along with Charlene Kampfe. NAMRC is positive that partnerships like this one as well as with other organizations with a core focus on issues of social justice like the Association of Multicultural Counseling and Development will assist in moving our mission forward and improving services for all.

Lastly, I encourage *all* individuals interested in issues impacting members of culturally diverse populations (members of groups who have historically been oppressed and/or marginalized as a result of racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, religious, spiritual and language differences) with disabilities to consider joining NAMRC. Our proactive efforts must be the change we wish to see occur.

Diversity DOES Matter.

I look forward to seeing you in Oklahoma City!

Yours in service,
Chandra

2006 Board Update

The Association is actively seeking a student representative for the 2008–2009 year.

The Cultural Network Newsletter is also in need of a newsletter editor. If you are interested in volunteering your service in this important position, please contact Chandra M. Donnell at cdonnell@msu.edu.

Responsibilities include:

Will be responsible for drafting of articles and layout of quarterly *Cultural Network* newsletter. Will write and solicit articles from President and other relevant parties. Will produce 4 newsletter editions per year. Will also have responsibility for working with Webmaster to update web site and monitor web activity accessibility.



*2007 15th Annual
Conference Update!!!*

Diversity Matters: Preparing the Rehabilitation Profession for Success In The 21st Century

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 Andre Washington and Dr. Tennyson Wright and the conference committee along with Conference Program Chairs, Drs. Allen N. Lewis and Deborah L. Thomas and their committee are diligently working to develop an exciting and engaging conference for us in Oklahoma City! 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 15th Annual NAMRC Conference

will be held at:

***The Sheraton Hotel
1 N. Broadway
Oklahoma City, OK***

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...

Dr. Brenda Cartwright has been reappointed to serve on CORE's Commission on Accreditation and Standards. NAMRC is positive she will represent our mission and philosophy well.

If you have new and exciting news and/or accolades, please do share them with our membership. NAMRC would like to celebrate you.

Please forward any recent professional accomplishments to cdonnell@msu.edu by July 1st to be featured in our August issue!!



The Student Corner

Rep Report

Submitted by Lakeysha J. McLaurin

As always it is an exciting time for the student body of NAMRC! We are anxiously anticipating a strong representation of student leadership and service at the upcoming 2007 training conference. This is definitely not the year to miss out on attending, as we are preparing a Career Expo and intellectually engaging workshops tailored to the interest of our scholars and young professionals. Sound like you?

Speaking of you...we are interested in hearing your voice. Are there specific topics you would like to see discussed in the Student Corner? If so, please submit your comments and/or ideas to thenamrcstudentcorner@yahoo.com. Also, if you would like to take involvement a step further we invite you to submit your bid for the Student Representative position on Board of Directors. To learn more about this position please contact Dr. Chandra Donnell at cdonnell@msu.edu.



*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 2007 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.

Again, don't delay in your planning to attend the Oklahoma City NAMRC conference, as it is sure to be an experience you will not forget!

NAMRC Student Representative

NEW NAMRC MISSION STATEMENT ADOPTED

By a special vote of the Board in March of this year, the following was adopted as our association's new mission statement:

"Promoting cultural diversity and disability through advocacy for excellence and equity in rehabilitation research, education and practice."

This statement replaces our previous statement which reads:

"The National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns is a diverse group whose purpose is to advocate for the rehabilitation needs of multicultural persons with disabilities; ensure the provision of quality and equitable services; and enhance the development of multicultural rehabilitation professionals."

Background. *In considering the need for development of a new mission, the board considered the fact that the former statement had not been revisited since the establishment of NAMRC as a division, that effective mission statements tend to be shorter, and that the language was somewhat clumsy and not reflective of our current direction. In addition, because President Donnell also hopes to revalidate the strategic plan, the appropriate starting place in this process is our mission statement. As a result the president charged a subcommittee of the Board of Directors-Brenda Cartwright, Chandra Donnell, Felicia Hunter, Paul Leung, Bob McConnell, Stacia Robertson and Mona Robinson-with the responsibility for this product. This strategic planning process, i.e., development of a new vision and strategic plan revalidation, will continue through our annual conference.*

Next Steps. *In the process of redefining our mission, it was suggested that we may also need to reconsider our Association name. In fact one member suggested that the term "Concerns" in our title was an initial deterrent to joining. As a result, we are soliciting ideas from the general membership for a new name. Your suggestions will be used by the subcommittee so that a new name can be voted on by the general membership at the annual meeting.*

Please forward your suggestions by e-mail to:

L. Robert McConnell ~ lrobertmcon@voyager.net

2007 - 2009 NAMRC Officers and Board of Directors

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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

15TH ANNUAL NAMRC TRAINING CONFERENCE

DIVERSITY MATTERS:

Preparing The Rehabilitation Profession For Success
In The 21st Century



July 18 – 22, 2007

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.NAMRC.org

NAMRC Cultural Network Newsletter
c/o Office of Rehabilitation and Disability
Studies
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459 Erickson Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824



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