

# THE CULTURAL NETWORK

## From the Desk of the President

*Dr. Stacia L. Robertson*

### Happy New Year NAMRC Family & Friends

With this recent election, NAMRC welcomes four new board members (Tyra Watts, Dion Porter, Cozetta Shannon, and Myrtle Johnson) and our new student Representative Nikki Philip. None of these individuals are new to service to NAMRC, as they have all been actively involved in such activities as conference preparation, newsletter publication, and state chapter development. I would also like to use this time to formally thank those board members whose terms ended December 2009. DeLeana Strohl, Tyra Rice Hawkins, Carl Flowers, Yolanda Edwards, and our student representative Verletta Saxon all completed terms. These members have all graciously assured us that they plan to remain actively involved in the organization. Please join me in thanking them for their service. We are always recruiting members who wish to be involved in NAMRC leadership positions. Please feel free to contact either of the board members if you are interested in serving in anyway.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the President	1
NRA Current Events	2
NAMRC Newly Elected Board Members	3
Student Corner	4
Haiti Reflection	5
2010 Conference Update	6
Submission Guidelines/Editors Corner	7
Board of Directors/Standing Committees	8
Scholarship Award Application Form	9
2010 Call for Proposals Form	10-12
Images from Haiti	13

The board is excited to announce our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference. This year's conference will be held in Las Vegas, NV. July 21<sup>st</sup> - July 24<sup>th</sup>. Please save the date. Further conference information will be disseminated through the NAMRC listserv and is currently available on the NAMRC website (<http://namrc.org/nat-train-conf.htm>). NAMRC is also on Facebook and LinkedIn. Join us on either of these social/business networks to also get updated information on NAMRC activities.

Sincerely,

Stacia



## ***Dr. Paul Leung Recognized by NCRE***

NAMRC will like to recognize and congratulate one of our own. At the 2010 NCRE Spring conference, Dr. Paul Leung will be honored with the 2010 Distinguished Career in Rehabilitation Education Award. Paul's NAMRC family is of course, fully aware of his life-long dedication to issues affecting persons with disabilities specifically, persons of color with disabilities. We recognized those efforts at our 2009 Training Conference in Memphis, but it is very nice and indeed rewarding to see other professional organizations in our field recognize and celebrate his many contributions to the profession. Please join NAMRC in congratulating Paul on his well-deserved achievement



**The National Rehabilitation Association's Government Affairs Summit was held on March 14-16 in Washington, DC.**

**Please check the NRA website within the upcoming months to get any updates on the lobbying and networking efforts that took place in Washington. The Summit was a time for advocacy, awareness and**



### **NAMRC Mission Statement**

*NAMRC is dedicated to promoting cultural diversity and disability through advocacy for excellence and equity in rehabilitation research, education and practice*

## NAMRC Congratulates Its Newly Elected Board Members



**DR. TYRA A. WATTS**



**DR. COZETTA SHANNON**



**MRS. MYRTLE JOHNSON**



**DR. DION F. PORTER**



**Mrs. Nikki Phillip**  
**New NAMRC Student Representative**

My name is Nikki Phillip. I am a first year graduate student at Langston University - Tulsa. I received my undergraduate education from Oral Roberts University with a B.S. in Pastoral Christian Ministries, with a concentration in Youth Ministry. I am currently enrolled in the Rehabilitation Counseling Program at Langston University in Tulsa. Upon graduation, I have plans to obtain my certification as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and a Licensed Professional Counselor. With my degree, I plan to work with youth in underserved populations.

I am very excited to be a part of NAMRC as a member and equally excited to serve as the Student Representative.

## *Student Corner*

I think that membership in national organizations is a great way for students to get involved with their professional community. I am delighted to represent the student members of NAMRC.

Students, I am looking forward to hearing about your experiences with NAMRC. Please contact me with any suggestions that you may have so that I can give voice to them.

One of my goals as Student Representative is to see the percentage of student membership increase. Student members, I need your help to make this happen! Please contact me with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Thank you so much!

**Nikki Phillip**  
[philpham4@gmail.com](mailto:philpham4@gmail.com)  
(918) 779-4095

## *Reflection on Haiti*

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the loss and devastation in both Haiti and Chile. The images and news footage from the areas have been absolutely heart breaking. Watching as our Haitian brothers and sisters lay dying in the streets makes one feel so helpless. The search for survivors, the clean up and finally the restoration of the affected areas will take several months if not years. The most recent devastation in Chile has left tens of thousands of people without food, drinking water and shelter. As both countries struggle to recover from these natural disasters, it seems one of the biggest ongoing concerns is getting medical attention and supplies to those injured and to those with either pre-existing disabilities or newly acquired disabilities. Based on the recovery efforts and the structural damages,

rehabilitation in the area of Haiti will take on new meaning following this devastation.

Please continue to keep the country of Haiti as well as the Chilean people in your thoughts and prayers. On behalf of the organization, the NAMRC Board is setting up a site to allow members to donate towards the relief efforts. Specifically, we will be supporting an agency that is on the ground working to provide aid to individuals with disabilities who have been displaced. Further information regarding our efforts will be posted on the NAMRC website ([www.namrc.org](http://www.namrc.org)). The needs of the country are tremendous. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said "life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" Please help out as you can. Sincerely,





**NAMRC 2010  
Conference  
July 21-24, 2010  
Las Vegas, Nevada**

**Theme**

***Multiculturalism ∞  
Changing the Odds ∞  
Creating the Future***



**Conference Location &  
Hotel Information:  
The Tropicana Las Vegas  
Island Tower  
3801 Las Vegas Boulevard South  
Las Vegas, NV 89109  
(800) 634-4000**

**For More Information Please contact:  
Felicia Hunter  
Registration Co-Chair  
19380 Magnolia  
Southfield, MI 48075  
PHONE: (313) 557-8757  
FAX: (313) 557-8557  
EMAIL: [fhunter@goodwilldetroit.org](mailto:fhunter@goodwilldetroit.org)**

## Newsletter Submission

Editor: Dion F. Porter, 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 Dr. Dion Porter at [dion.porter@jsums.edu](mailto:dion.porter@jsums.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 2010 are:

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

[www.NAMRC.org](http://www.NAMRC.org)



## Editors Corner~



I would like to thank the NAMRC family for all of their support and submissions. I ask that you please continue to provide your submissions and your voices to the newsletter. Without your input it will be hard for us to put out a Cultural Network that is full of relevant content of quality and substance. Also, if you do not have a written submission for the Newsletter, then feel free to send your photos as a possible contribution. Finally, on behalf of the NAMRC family, I would like to send condolences to Dr. Chandra Donnell for the loss of her father on last month. Let us all keep her and her family in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,  
*Dion F. Porter*

Dion F. Porter  
Editor 2010-2011

### **2010 – 2011 NAMRC Officers and Board of Directors**

Stacia L. Robertson, **President**  
[sbrtsn@siu.edu](mailto:sbrtsn@siu.edu)

Chandra M. Donnell, **Immediate Past-President**  
[cdonnell3@gmail.com](mailto:cdonnell3@gmail.com)

Mona Robinson, **President-Elect**  
[robinsoh@ohio.edu](mailto:robinsoh@ohio.edu)

Shabana Anees, **Secretary**  
[sanees@state.pa.us](mailto:sanees@state.pa.us)

Felicia Hunter, **Treasurer**  
[Fhunter@goodwilldetroit.org](mailto:Fhunter@goodwilldetroit.org)

#### ***Board of Directors***

Paul Leung  
[pleung@unt.edu](mailto:pleung@unt.edu)

Carl Flower, **Membership Chair**  
[cflowers@siu.edu](mailto:cflowers@siu.edu)

Shabana Anees, **Secretary**  
[sanees@state.pa.us](mailto:sanees@state.pa.us)

Eddie Glenn Bryant  
[drglennbryant@bellsouth.net](mailto:drglennbryant@bellsouth.net)

Cozetta Shannon  
[cozettashannon@gmail.com](mailto:cozettashannon@gmail.com)

Myrtle Johnson  
[Myrtle.johnson@arkansas.gov](mailto:Myrtle.johnson@arkansas.gov)

Tyra Watts  
[B4law@bellsouth.net](mailto:B4law@bellsouth.net)

Dion Porter  
[dion.porter@jsums.edu](mailto:dion.porter@jsums.edu)

**NRA Representative, LaKeisha Harris**  
[Lakeisha.harris@gmail.com](mailto:Lakeisha.harris@gmail.com)

**Legislative Representative/Board Member**  
 L. Robert McConnell, [lrconn805@comcast.net](mailto:lrconn805@comcast.net)

**Student Representative/Board Member**  
 Nikki Phillip

## **2010 NAMRC Board Restructured Standing Committees**

- Finance and Economic Development
- Membership and Coalition Development
- Professional Development
- Public Relations and Marketing Development
- Legislative Committee
- Executive Committee



## 2010 NAMRC Scholarship Award Application

**Purpose:** To support minority students who are pursuing careers in rehabilitation counseling and related fields.

**Eligibility:** All applicants must be NAMRC members and racial/ethnic minority students who are enrolled in undergraduate or CORE accredited graduate rehabilitation counseling programs, or in an accredited program in a related field.

**Selection Criteria:** At the graduate level, a minimum of 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale OR at the undergraduate level, a minimum of 2.8 GPA on a 4.0 scale. All applicants must submit a four to six (4-6) page response to an essay question developed by the Scholarship Committee focused on multicultural issues. Three (3) letters of recommendation will be reviewed by the NAMRC Scholarship Committee. Lastly, as an award winner, an agreement must be made to attend and present a paper at the 2010 NAMRC Conference.

**Award Amounts:** The amount of \$1,000 each will be provided to an undergraduate and graduate recipient.

**Process:** Applicants must complete a scholarship application, including a brief statement of current grants, scholarships and financial aid, an official transcript, a response to the essay question and three (3) letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation must come from the following sources: A) an educator in the field rehabilitation counseling or related area; B) a community sponsor who is knowledgeable about the student in an employment or volunteer

### Essay Question:

All applicants must respond to the following question:

“Multicultural persons with disabilities are purported to face unique barriers affecting their employment and integration into society. What do you consider to be their most significant barriers, and how as a rehabilitation professional and change agent might you help overcome them?”

capacity; and C) other (non-relative) letter of applicant’s choice).

**Applications must be received no later than April 2, 2010 and will be formally presented at the 2010 NAMRC National Conference held July 21-24 in Las Vegas, Nevada.**

**\*\*For additional applications and information, visit the NAMRC website at [www.namrc.org](http://www.namrc.org) and click on the Awards and Scholarships Link. Contact Scholarship Committee Chair, Cozetta D. Shannon, Ph.D., at [namrcscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:namrcscholarship@gmail.com), or (334) 241-9594 for any additional inquiries.**

## “Multiculturalism: Changing the Odds, Creating the Future”

July 21 – 24, 2010  
Tropicana Las Vegas  
Island Tower  
3801 Las Vegas Boulevard South  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109  
(901) 527-7300  
[www.troplv.com](http://www.troplv.com)

Conference Chairs:

***Mona Robinson, Ph.D., PCC, CRC***  
***Tyra Watts, Ph.D., CRC***

Program Co-Chairs:

***Dothel W. Edwards, Jr., Rh.D., CRC, CLCP***  
***LaKeisha L. Harris, Ph.D., CRC***

*The National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns* (NAMRC) is pleased to announce our 2010 national training conference to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada. NAMRC invites submissions of proposals from rehabilitation practitioners, educators, students, researchers, and clients.

### Review and Notification

The deadline for submitting proposals for the 2010 training conference is **April 2, 2010**. You will receive an e-mail to acknowledge receipt of your proposal within two weeks. If you do not, please contact Dothel Edwards at [dedwards@alasu.edu](mailto:dedwards@alasu.edu) or LaKeisha Harris at [lakeisha.harris@gmail.com](mailto:lakeisha.harris@gmail.com). The conference program committee will select proposals and notify prospective lead presenters by **June 1, 2010**.

### Content Areas of Presentation

The committee seeks proposals which address the conference theme on Multiculturalism: Changing the Odds, Creating the Future. This year's theme includes a focus on the continued challenges faced in our efforts to increase awareness of the diverse needs of persons with disabilities. We must continue to find innovative methods for delivering quality services to persons with disabilities in the face of many economic and political barriers. Our charge is to persist in our agenda of ensuring that all persons with disabilities will have equality in services, interventions and policy.

Proposals will be accepted for research presentations, symposia, and poster presentations. Submissions should represent the following content areas with a multicultural focus:

- ***Ethical Practices***
- ***Achieving Professional Excellence in Rehabilitation Research, Leadership and Practice***
- ***Forensic Rehabilitation***
- ***Innovations in Technology***
- ***High Quality Service Delivery (e.g.), Independent Living, Internships, Transition Programs, Multi-Agency Partnerships, Special Target Populations, etc.***
- ***Examining Disability Policy***
- ***Educational Standards and Training***
- ***Clinical Supervision***
- ***Evidence Based Practice***
- ***Rehabilitation Counseling Process***
- ***Research in Rehabilitation***

To submit a proposal, prepare a document in a rich text format (MS Word) using the following outline and submit the document as an attachment in an e-mail to the conference program committee. Only electronic submissions will be accepted. **Proposals should be sent to Dothel Edwards at [dedwards@alasu.edu](mailto:dedwards@alasu.edu) or LaKeisha Harris at [lakeisha.harris@gmail.com](mailto:lakeisha.harris@gmail.com). Please place “NAMRC 2010 Proposal” in the subject line of your email.** The outline must be followed and all information must be provided as requested.

#### Proposal Format

All proposals must be submitted as an e-mail attachment. The attachment must be in **rich text format** (.rtf). Submitted proposals should utilize the last name of the lead presenter as the filename. Presenters who submit more than one proposal should number each proposal sequentially after their last name (i.e., smith1.rtf, smith2.rtf). Presenters who wish to withdraw or modify a submitted proposal should request that the file name be withdrawn. If they wish to modify the proposal and resubmit, they should submit the modified proposal under their last name with a NEW sequential number and within the stipulated deadline of April 2, 2010.

Submissions should be in 12 point – Times New Roman font. Please limit your submissions to the information requested in the call for proposals, as additional attachments or appendices will not be reviewed.

The format of the proposal must include: (1) Title, (2) Abstract, (3) Type of Presentation (e.g. symposium), (4) Learning Objectives, (5) Lead Presenter & Co-Presenters, (6) Program Guide Summary, and (7) Audiovisual Equipment Request.

#### Title

Limit to 80 characters, including punctuation marks and spaces. Proposals titles should be simple and factual.

#### Abstract

Length of content description should not exceed 150 words for the concurrent sessions and symposia, and 100 words for poster sessions.

Be as concise as possible and describe:

- a) Learning objectives,
- b) Educational content,
- c) Structure of presentation in order to involve the audience (e.g., Discussion, case studies, other Examples),

#### Presentation Formats

*Concurrent Sessions* are individual presentations, which provide the opportunity for individuals (one or more) to present a paper, project, or other initiative. Individual presentations may be grouped with other individual presentations with similar topics or themes. Presentations are 75 minutes in duration.

*Poster Session* provides the opportunity for individuals to present a paper, project, or initiative in the format of a poster fair. Presenters and attendees engage in extended discussions regarding their presentation that is in illustrated format on a poster board. CEU's will be available for attendance at the poster session.

*Symposium* provides a forum for the presentation of multiple and related research studies or experiences in order to present a broader context for discussion through panel presentation. Symposia are 75 minutes in duration.

**Lead Presenter and Contact Person**

The lead presenter is also the contact person and the chair of the program. Lead presenters are responsible for notifying all other co-presenters of acceptance, rejection, scheduling and any other information provided by NAMRC.

List contact information for the lead presenter, including work affiliation, primary mailing address, daytime and evening telephone numbers, and fax number. An e-mail address is required. In a brief paragraph, give the lead presenter's qualifications. Please list degree(s), areas of specialization, current position and employer.

**Co-Presenter(s)**

List all co-presenters by name providing primary mailing address, daytime and evening telephone numbers, fax number, and e-mail address at the time of proposal submission. No more than four (4) presenters per program, including the chair, will be listed in the program.

**Availability of Presenters**

Submission of this proposal is an acknowledgement that persons submitting proposals agree to:

- *Be available to present the program on any day of the conference.*
- *Not charge a separate fee for attending your session.*
- *Pay the registration fee to attend the conference one month prior to the conference.*
- *Present at no more than two sessions, additional poster submissions are exempt.*
- *Make presentation materials and activities accessible to participants who have sensory, motor, or other disabilities.*

***All persons planning to present at the conference MUST pay conference registration fees.***

**Conference Program Guide**

**Descriptive Summary:** In 50 words or less, describe your presentation. Include only the key points and benefits to attendees. Please note that only the first 50 words will be printed and will represent your session in the conference program.

**Conference Proceedings**

All persons submitting papers for presentation are strongly encouraged to submit their presentation in writing for the conference proceedings. Conference papers should be submitted in accordance with the publication manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) and other guidelines as established by the program co-chairs. Conference proceedings submissions are due within 45 days after the end of the conference.

**Audiovisual Equipment**

Conference planners will provide an overhead projector and screen to concurrent session presenters at no cost. Please let us know if you require this equipment.

**Computers and LCD projectors will not be provided and are the responsibility of the presenters.** If you require any other additional equipment, NAMRC will provide you with information on ordering equipment at your own expense. Request for additional equipment must be made to Dr. Dothel Edwards. Poster session presenters will not be provided audiovisual equipment, poster stands or boards. Poster presenters should plan accordingly. Tables will be available in the poster area.

**Space Limitations**

Due to space limitations, all programs may not be accepted in the format submitted. Please indicate below whether or not you would accept a format change of your proposal from a concurrent session to a poster session format.

**Accept** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do Not Accept** \_\_\_\_\_



# ~More Images from Haiti~

