

Celebrating our Past, Embracing our Present, and Envisioning our Future: ALACES 1985-2006

Dr. Robyn Williams
Troy University-Montgomery

Abstract

The focus of this article is to summarize the history of the Alabama Association of Counselor Education and Supervision (ALACES) division of the Alabama Counseling Association (ALCA). A discussion of the inception of ALACES, membership, publications, and a listing of past and current presidents is presented. In addition, the current goals of the organization are discussed.

The Alabama Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ALACES) is a division of the Alabama Counseling Association (ALCA), which parallels the organizational structure at the national level with the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) being a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA). ALACES was initially chartered in 1970 and has had thirty-five presidents since its inception. The leadership structure of ALACES includes President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, two Members-at-Large, and the appointed positions of CEU coordinator, historian, ALCA journal reviewer, newsletter editor, professional standards and ethics committee chair, and site supervisor liaison.

At present, ALACES has 194 members. The majority of the membership body continues to be made up of counselor educators, although there has been an increase in supervisors joining ALACES over the last several years. This number has remained consistent with an average of 200 members over the last six years.

The history of ALACES from 1970-1984 was recorded in an article by Daly, Beckett, and Fortner (1985) that appeared in the Alabama Association for Counseling and Development Journal. In this article, the authors outlined those who had served as President of the organization, its activities, and future goals. The purpose of this article is to provide a historical overview of the years since the publication of the aforementioned article.

Those who have served ALACES as President since 1985-1986 include: Dr. Allen Wilcoxon, 1987-88; Dr. Sam Gladding, 1988-89; Dr. Marie Jackson, 1989-90; Dr. Carolyn Thomas, 1990-91; Dr. Gloria Turner, 1991-92, Dr. Debra Cobia, 1992-93; Dr. John Moracco, 1993-94; Dr. Jamie Carney, 1994-95; Dr. Sarah Portis, 1995-96; Dr. Karla Carmichael, 1996-97; Drs. Sandy Magnuson and Ken Norem, 1997-98; Mr. Skip Archer, 1998-99; Dr. Paul Baird, 1999-2000; Dr. Irene McIntosh, 2000-01; Dr. Stephanie Puleo, 2001-02; Dr. Judith Harrington, 2002-03; Dr. Larry Tyson, 2003-04; Dr. Charlotte Daughhettee, 2004-05; and Dr. Robyn Trippany Williams, 2005- present.

ALACES publishes a quarterly newsletter that until 1998 was entitled Communicator. In 1998, this title was dropped and it became simply ALACES Newsletter. In June 2006, the leadership of ALACES held a contest to rename the newsletter. Dr. Judith Harrington won with her entry of The Vision.

The current goals for ALACES include coordinating a state-wide site supervisor training in five regions of the state to take place by May 2007, identifying new members interested in ALACES leadership opportunities, increasing

fellowship opportunities for members, and decreasing the financial surplus of ALACES. In addition, ALACES has agreed to 1) support the ALCA Special Needs Accommodation Fund with a \$500 per year grant, 2) provide a Counselor Education Doctoral Student Scholarship of \$1000 per year, and 3) provided a luncheon meeting in July 2006 to help further fellowship opportunities for ALACES members. The costs involved with the state-wide site supervisor training, the Special Needs Accommodation Grant, the Counselor Education Doctoral Student Scholarship, the luncheon for ALACES members will help to decrease the financial surplus of ALACES. Further, ALACES hopes that these identified activities will help increase membership, identification of potential leaders, and fellowship within the organization.

The goal of the state-wide site supervisor training was influenced by a survey conducted by ALACES members, Angela Stowe and Robyn Trippany Williams, which focused on the status of site supervision for counselor education students and site supervisors in the state of Alabama. Although there was a very low response rate with 7.6% of students responding and 5.3% of site supervisors responding, some important information regarding the needs of both students and site supervisors were identified. The results indicated that most students were satisfied with the process they experienced with their practicum and internship placements, however a need to see changes in the relationship they have with the site supervisor was identified. Based on the responses from the site supervisor, there is a very real need to train site supervisors in theories and models of supervision as the results indicated that the overwhelming majority of individuals did not describe a model they follow for supervision of

practicum students and interns. Of those who did describe a model, they named a major theoretical approach (e.g., cognitive-behavioral, person-centered).

In the ALACES bylaws that were written in 1998 and revised in 2006, the purpose of this organization is stated as “The purposes of the Association, in accordance with the purposes of ACES, shall be to enhance and promote effective life span counseling through the generation and translation of theory and research into quality education and supervision of counselors by:

1.3a. promoting the life long learning of members of the counseling profession;

1.3b. promoting scholarly inquiry for the advancement of the counseling profession;

1.3c. recruiting capable people into Counselor Education programs and into supervised training experiences;

1.3d. assuring the relevance within counselor education programs and within the practice of supervision for the needs of diverse client populations; and

1.3e. promoting quality counselor supervision through advocating for supervision needs and encouraging high supervision standards.”

This is still the commitment and focus of this organization and its activities.

37 Celebrating our Past

AUTHOR NOTE

Dr. Robyn Williams is an Associate Professor at Troy University-Montgomery. Correspondence regarding this manuscript should be directed to: Dr. Robyn Williams, Troy University-Montgomery, P.O. Drawer 4419, Montgomery, Alabama 36103-4419.

Email: rtrippany@troy.edu

REFERENCES

Daly, J., Beckett, M., & Fortner, N. (1986). Alabama Association for Counselor Education and Supervision. Published as the *Alabama ACD Journal*, 12 (2), 25-26.