

I started my professional relationship with VCA several years ago, when I was recognized as an Emerging Leader through their Leadership Academy. Since this time, I've worked with others to successfully reactivate VA-ASERVIC, and I am fulfilling my term as President of VA-ASERVIC until this fiscal year, June 30, 2017. As President of VA-ASERVIC, I worked diligently on membership recruitment, developing a positive presence at last year's VCA's Convention (awarded grant funding by ASERVIC), developing a website, and listening to our members for suggestions to improve and grow. To exemplify this collaboration, I am extremely proud a specific accomplishment: during last year's Convention, VA-ASERVIC and VA-ALGBTIC joined forces on a collaborative event that both processed spiritual needs and honoring those impacted by the PULSE nightclub shootings. Additionally, I am currently serving my last term as the Graduate Representative for VA-ALGBTIC, a role that I cherish because I've witnessed firsthand how passionate advocacy can translate into proactive change. Overall, these roles continue to provide insight and perspective into the various complexities, challenges, and rewards of leadership at a division level—a lesson that I am confident I can bring to my role as President-Elect.

To share a little about me, I received my master's degree at The George Washington University's CORE-accredited program, in Rehabilitation Counseling with a concentration in Autism Spectrum Disorders. Currently, I am a third-year doctoral candidate at Marymount University's (MU) CACREP-accredited program, studying Counselor Education and Supervision. My anticipated graduation is this Spring 2017. Also, I serve as a full-time Visiting Assistant Professor in the Counseling Department at Marymount, teaching master's Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) and School Counseling students and advising CMHC students. In addition to these roles, I am a Counselor in Residence in Virginia, seeing clients and receiving clinical supervision to fulfil my licensure requirements.

I am recognized as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, National Certified Counselor, and the recent recipient of two prestigious awards for my dedication of service to diverse and marginalized/underserved populations and scholarship to promote ethical practices working with minority populations: VCA Foundation's Pete Warren Student Fellow and MU's Outstanding Doctoral Student of the Year for Scholarship. I am active in collaborating on academic projects at the local, state, national, and international level related to my personal and professional interests which include racial and ethnic minority stress and intergenerational trauma, spiritual identity development and coping, as well as the intersection of spiritual/religious beliefs/identity with LGBTQI+ populations. Observing my contact with a wide variety of counseling professionals, I am dedicated to growing the counseling profession and enlisting my contributions to the numerous professional roles and contexts of counselors within VCA.