

Cyrus R. Williams, III, Ph.D., LPC
VCA President 2020 – 2021



Welcome to the 2020-2021 VCA year!!! Let me introduce myself, I received a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision and a Specialist in Higher Education Administration from the University of Florida. I have a master's degree in Counseling from the University of Hartford. I am a full professor at Regent University, and the Program Director of the Counselor Education and Supervision Ph.D. Program. Before my work at Regent, I worked for more than fifteen years in various administrative positions in higher education. Specifically, I worked at Manchester Community College in student support services. I worked exclusively with first-generation, low-income college students as a Counselor in the Student Support Services Program at the University of Connecticut and served as the Associate Director of the Ronald E. McNair Program at the University of Florida. My last position in higher education administration was as the

Assistant Dean of Students at the University of Florida. I have been living in Virginia for the last 11 years, been a member of VCA for 9+ years, and served as the President of VACES from 2013-2015. I have a private practice in Virginia Beach and have been happily married to Saranette for 16 years we have two children Hannah and Cyrus IV.

I am honored with the opportunity to lead this organization. VCA is an amazing group of professionals and I am excited to meet, work with, and learn from each of you this year. We have such an array of talents and services to offer. I believe we have great potential to enhance the counseling profession, engage the public, and lead in ways that we have never led in the past. I had so many plans this year, but then the universe spoke and a Health and Cultural Pandemic overtook our country. As a result, the organization has to adjust and rethink how we conduct business and join and lead the national movement to address racial and cultural injustice.

As I think about these complicated and important crises that are playing out in front of our eyes, I am experiencing equal parts courage and fear. I have chosen to feed the courage and manage the fear. I will need your help to reflect, reshape, and rethink how we go about doing our business. With this as the backdrop for the year, we will need to develop the courage to do business, conventions, meetings, community engagement, and so many other things differently. Also, we need to change internally to ensure that we are leading and representing the individuals, families, communities, and schools with diverse leaders, perspectives, and solutions.

I am looking forward to demonstrating to all that we are a world-class organization that is forward thinking, dedicated to all people, and communities. We want to be both proactive and responsive to the needs of the counselors, counselors-in-training, policymakers, and allies to ensure that the counseling profession remains a vital factor in shaping how we treat and promote wellness and fairness in our state. Your division, chapters, and interest group leaders have been working diligently to prepare for the impending changes mentioned above. It is our goal to continue to serve our members and stakeholders with great resources, programs, and activities. I thank you in advance for your support and grace as we move towards making transformational changes to this great organization.