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EDUCATION

- 2007** Doctor of Philosophy, Rehabilitation Counselor Education.
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
- 1994** Master of Science, Rehabilitation Counseling. Portland State
University, Portland, OR
- 1980** Bachelor of Science: Education. Southern Illinois University,
Carbondale, IL

LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS

LPC, State of Wyoming, 2009 to Present
LPC, State of Michigan, 2006-2007

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) Leadership Development Institute 2011
- VAMC Leadership Education and Development Certificate Program 2010
- Department of Defense (DOD) TBI and Polytrauma Series; focus on Blast Injuries
- Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Certified
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Seminar
- Rational Emotive Therapy Seminar
- Personality Disorders Seminar
- Advanced Grant Writing

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

August 2012 to present Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL
Rehabilitation Institute
Assistant Professor:

- Advisement and supervision for doctoral and master students for research and clinical activities.
- Instructor for substance abuse specialty coursework, rehabilitation counseling, and

- rehabilitation administration
- Committee membership

August 2007 to June 2008 Assumption College, Worcester, MA
Institute of Human Services and Rehabilitation Studies
Assistant Professor:

- Graduate Internship Supervisor
- Etiology of Substance Abuse
- Introduction to Human Services
- Medical Aspects of Disability
- Faculty Development Award for special studies in therapeutic intervention for veterans with chronic illness.

August 2002-May 2007 Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
Department of Counselor Education, Psychology, and Special Education.

Instructor/Graduate Assistant:

- Employment Strategies for Persons With Disabilities
- Graduate Internship Supervisor
- Substance Abuse and Society
- Program Assistant: Liaison for new graduate students.
- Participated in C.O.R.E certification process.

January 1998-January 2000 Chemeketa Community College
Salem, OR

Proficiency Skills Program Coordinator:

- Coordinated and implemented a statewide program for transitional training for at-risk adolescents with co-occurring disabilities including cognitive disorders.
- Supervised and directed staff.
- Responsible for program growth and development.
- Partnered with University of Oregon and the Veterans administration for development a college program specifically targeted toward at risk youth with disabilities in rural communities.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

July, 2008- Present

Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Administration Medical Center
Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation and Treatment Program
Sheridan, WY

Rehabilitation Counseling Coordinator/Case Manager

Responsibilities:

- Mental health and vocational counseling for homeless veterans with persistent and chronic mental illness, substance abuse and physical disability.
- Responsible for all clinical assessments, utilizing specific knowledge regarding psychosocial aspects of disability.
- Responsible for developing aggressive outreach programs to solicit services including support services, on-the-job-training-supported employment.
- Coordination of services with Compensated Work Therapy, Supported Employment, State of Wyoming Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, and local and interstate colleges and universities.
- Secured and manage the grant funded VAMC/Sheridan College Initiative which offers low cost education and training opportunities to veterans in the Sheridan area.
- Secured and manage the grant funded Independent Living Transportation Voucher Program which offers transportation to homeless veterans for job search.
- Supervision of graduate level Mental Health and Rehabilitation Counseling interns.
- Administrative assignments: Ethic Committee Chair, Homeless Veteran Readjustment Project Committee, Mental Health Foster Home Committee, Leadership Development Program Educator.

February, 2011 –December, 2011

Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Administration Medical Center
Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation and Treatment Program
Sheridan, WY

Acting HUD-VASH Program Coordinator

Responsibilities:

- Development and maintenance of a systematic program offering a unique panel of services in the area of permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans with a variety of disabilities.
- Use of specific knowledge of the medical and psychological needs of the veterans with disabilities to determine eligibility of veterans for transitional housing.
- Intensive work with veterans in a rural community to develop treatment plans that are person-centric with emphasis on specific, measurable, attainable, results-oriented and timely treatment goals.
- Completion of psychosocial assessments, integrated summaries, progress reports, treatment plans and discharge plans.
- Consultation and education of staff and residents pertaining to HUD-VASH.
- Completion of weekly and monthly performance records.

July 2005-December 2006

Total Health Education,
Lansing, MI

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Therapist:

- Individual and group therapy
- Advanced case management for court mandated adolescents and adults.
- Development of community resources to aid transition.
- Coordination of services with Drug Courts.
- Treatment plan development.

November 2003- September 2005 Hope Rehabilitation, TBI Treatment Center,
East Lansing, MI

Disability Case Manager:

- Advanced case management and rehabilitation services for outpatients.
- Target group: Persons with severe to moderate traumatic brain injury.
- Responsible for assessment, treatment plans and discharge plans.
- Responsible for employment counseling and adjunct services.
- Expert in guidelines and regulations for the provision of services within an insurer and Medicare funded program.

January 2006-May 2006 Origami, Poly trauma Treatment Center
East Lansing, MI

- Doctoral research and clinical: Traumatic Brain Injury.

August 2001- August 2002 State of Washington, Division of
Vocational Rehabilitation, Vancouver, WA

Rehabilitation Counselor:

- Provided individual and rehabilitation counseling services for a diverse population.
- Target group: adults with severe physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities.
- Responsible for employment counseling and recommendations for adjunct services, such as job accommodation and work evaluation, psychiatric assessment and neuropsychological testing.
- Expert in guidelines and regulations for services provided within a State and federally funded program.

April 2000-August 2001 SCA Pacific Inc.
Vancouver, WA

Intensive In-Home Program, Case Manager:

- Provide intensive in-home therapeutic intervention for adults and adolescents with significant cognitive and psychiatric disabilities, and those with co-occurring substance abuse disorders.
- Responsible for identifying and reporting barriers to participation in AFS services.

- Develop detailed plans for intervention and movement toward independence from institutional and monetary systems.
- Coordinate with state and federal services to facilitate independent living.

April 1993-December 1998

Reigel Vocational Consultation
Portland, OR

Rehabilitation Counselor:

- Provided a full range of counseling services for adults with chronic and disabling illnesses, specializing in TBI and mental health.
- Responsible for eligibility evaluations, psychosocial assessments, rehabilitation plan development, referral for training services, curriculum development, job coaching, job development, community outreach, and employer education surrounding disabilities.
- Administered testing as appropriate.
- Forensic, consultative, second opinion and specialized counseling assignments
- Responsible for justifying all related expenses to payers, accurate reporting according to payer

HONORS AND RECOGNITION

- Recipient of VA Outstanding Employee Certificate (2009, 2010).
- Faculty Development Award, Assumption College (2008).
- Award, National Rehabilitation Counseling Association Doctoral Research and Writing Scholarship (2006).
- Award, Sally Meyers Student Scholarship, Michigan Association of Alcohol and Drug Addiction (2005).
- Recipient, Federal Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) scholarship for doctoral study in rehabilitation counseling (1993-1995, 2000).

PUBLICATIONS

- Nichols, J.L. & Kosciulek, J. (2007). A qualitative analysis of the social interactions of individuals with traumatic brain injury. *Published dissertation.*
- Nichols, J. L. (2007). The influence of coworker justice perceptions on worksite accommodations and the return to work of individuals with disabilities. *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling.*
- Nichols, J. L. (2006). Balancing reason and intuition: Tuning in to indecision. *Journal of Rehabilitation*, 72(4) 40-48.
- Nichols, J. L. (2006). The leadership challenge in rehabilitation, *ARM of MRA*, 31, 1-17.
- Kristal-Brandon, S. & Nichols, J. L. (2006). Leadership: Creating great

organizations. *ARM of MRA*, 31 (4), 1-22 Nichols, J.L. (2006). Being a person of influence: Leading through Change. *ARM of MRA*, 31 (5).

PRESENTATIONS TO PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

- Nichols, J., Martinez, S; Gramals-Pettellier, C., Psenda, P., Solie, B., Weede, A (2011). *Optimizing the use of the Veterans Administration Career Ladder and Upward Mobility Programs for employee development*. Poster presentation at the Veterans Administration Leadership Development Conference, Denver, CO.
- Nichols, J. & Hegy, J. August (2009). *Employment of persons with TBI and physical disabilities; interventions for success*. Paper presented at the Sheridan Wyoming Business Leadership Conference, Sheridan, WY.
- Nichols, J. & Mann, M. September (2008). *Impact of TBI and PTSD on returning OIF/OEF veterans*, presented by invitation to Sheridan Community College faculty and staff.
- Nichols, J. (2008). *A holistic approach toward therapeutic interventions for TBI*, paper presented for clinical training, Veterans Administration medical Center, Sheridan, WY.
- Nichols, J. (2006). *Effective employment strategies for persons with disabilities: a unique approach toward partnership*, paper presented by invitation at Michigan Works! Career Alliances regional office, Flint, MI.
- Nichols, J. February (2006) *Creative Methods for Teaching Employment Strategies*, presentation at the National Council of Rehabilitation Educators conference, San Diego, CA.
- Nichols, J. & Groomes, D. (2005). *Effective Employment Strategies: a Unique Approach toward Partnership*, presentation at the Michigan Rehabilitation Conference, Grand Rapids, MI.
- Nichols, J. (2005). *Balancing intuition and reason: Tuning in to Indecision*, paper presented by invitation at the at 2005 National Rehabilitation Counseling Association conference in Memphis, TN.
- Nichols, J. (2004). *Ethical decision making in rehabilitation counseling: An integrative approach*, paper presented at the Michigan Rehabilitation Conference, Traverse City, MI.
- Nichols, J. (2003). *Disability studies: What rehabilitation counseling educators should know*, poster presented to the National Council of Rehabilitation Educators, Tucson, AZ.

LEADERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Member, Rural Transportation Initiative Committee, Sheridan, WY 2011-present
- Member, Sheridan Business Leadership Network, Sheridan, WY 2009-present
- Executive Committee, State of Wyoming Rehabilitation Counseling Board
2009-present

- Mid-states Regional Representative, Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association 2005 to 2007
- Board Member, Michigan Rehabilitation Association; Committee membership, Public Policy and Communications 2005 to 2007
- Board Member, Michigan Rehabilitation Counselor Association 2004 to 2006
- Chairperson, Michigan Rehabilitation Conference Graduate Student Colloquium, Planning Committee 2004
- Co-Chair, Visiting Speaker Program, Michigan State University 2004
- Treasurer, Oregon Rehabilitation Association, Central Division 1998-2000