

Advocacy and Leadership Development through Honor Society Membership: Implications for Counseling Professional Identity

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Program Description

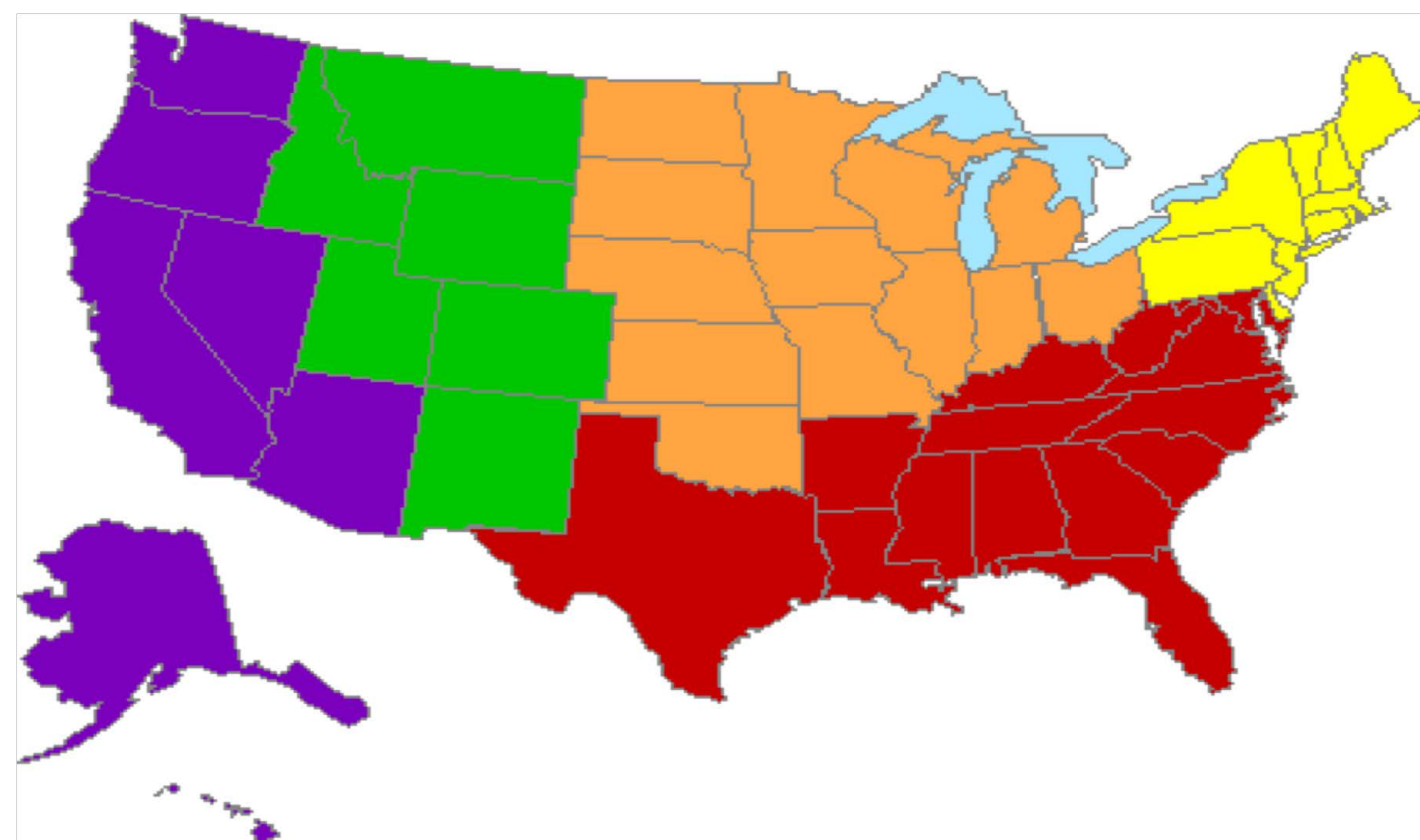
Advocacy and leadership efforts for professional counselors and counselors in training are crucial so that they can continue to serve their respective clients with maximum effectiveness (Chang et al., 2011). With this in mind, this program seeks to provide a wide variety of evidence and examples of what leadership and advocacy can look like, specifically taken from concrete examples performed by Mercer University (MU) students, professors, and alums in the community. Additionally, this program will underscore the importance of ongoing innovation in leadership and advocacy by encouraging dialogue to ultimately promote counselor identity and excellent practice.

Learning Objectives

1. Seek to provide evidence of Mu Upsilon Alpha Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) Chapter goals effect on the advocacy and professional development of MU students and early career and professional counselors.
2. Give concrete examples of different types of leadership and advocacy efforts being performed by MU CSI members, students, professors, and alums in the community.
3. Seek to encourage dialogue among all attendees regarding new and innovative ways they are underscoring counselor professional identity through leadership and advocacy.

Mu Upsilon Alpha

Red: Southern (N=14) AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV
Rank: 5th with 100 > Members



Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) Significance & Goals

- Chi Sigma Iota (CSI), the International Counseling Academic and Professional Honor Society of professional counseling and for professional counselors, was established in 1985 through the efforts of leaders in the profession of counseling whose desire was to provide recognition for outstanding achievement as well as outstanding service within the profession. CSI was created for counselors-in-training, counselor educators, and professional counselors whose career commitment is to research and service through professional counseling.
- CSI's mission is to promote scholarship, research, professionalism, leadership and excellence in counseling, and to recognize high attainment in the pursuit of academic and clinical excellence in the profession of counseling.
- The ability of a professional counselor to be able to understand themselves as a leader and advocate is just as important as the individuals they are trying to understand. As a result, it is necessary for ongoing discussion about the different ways we can be leaders and advocates. When training future counselors, the development of professional attitudes is considered a cornerstone (Corey, Corey, & Callahan, 2005).

2018 – 2019 Chapter Activities



John Mark Parker

2018-2019 New Members Induction Ceremony
Mu CSI Members AIDS Walk Volunteers
Mu CSI Members Egleston CHOA Volunteers
Mu CSI Members Hydrocephalus Walk Volunteers
Mu CSI Members EMDRIA Conference Volunteers

2019 – 2020 Chapter Activities



2019 New Member Induction Ceremony
NAMI Walks
Bahamas Hurricane Donation Relief
Coffee & Chat
Holistic Wellness Workshop
Newly Established Web Presence/Newsletter Committee
Holiday Soiree
Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center Angel Tree Distribution Staging

Conclusion

Advocacy and leadership development for professional counselors and counselors in training are critical for providing quality/effective service for prospective clients. Chi Sigma Iota (CSI), the International Counseling Academic and Professional Honor Society of professional counseling, has proven to be a pivotal source for ensuring quality advocacy and professional training for Mercer University prospective professional counselors and counselor educators.

Work Cited

- Chang, C. Y., Barrio Minton, C. A., Dixon, A., Myers, J. E., & Sweeney, T. J. (Eds.). (2011). *Professional counseling excellence through leadership and advocacy*. New York: Routledge.
- Corey, G., Corey, M. S., & Callanan, P. (2005). An Approach to Teaching Ethics Courses in Human Services and Counseling, *49*(3), 193–207. doi:10.1002/j.2161-007X.2005.tb01022.x