

# Farewell and Thank You!

By Kirk Bowden, PhD, MAC, NCC, LPC, NAADAC President

My two-year tenure as NAADAC President comes to an end with the close of the NAADAC 2016 Annual Conference in Minneapolis, MN this October. I thank you, the members of NAADAC, for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president; it has certainly been a great honor for me and the opportunity of a lifetime. I have truly loved my time as President.

I hope that during my tenure, I have had a positive influence on NAADAC and the addiction counseling profession. I leave this position knowing that NAADAC will continue to move forward as Gerry Schmidt, MA, MAC, LPC, becomes your new president and Diane Sevening, EdD, LAC, becomes your new president-elect. Gerry and Diane are outstanding people who I consider to be my personal friends, as well as great leaders, true addiction counseling professionals, and longtime NAADAC members who have served in leadership positions for many years.

Leading NAADAC requires a total team effort and the NAADAC leadership team is comprised of some of the finest and most talented people in our profession. This dedicated team includes elected members of the Executive Committee, appointed committee chairs and members, the Chair and Commissioners of the National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP), state affiliate presidents and boards, and NAADAC's Executive Director, directors, managers, and staff.

I take this opportunity to specifically thank our Executive Director, Cynthia Moreno Tuohy. I truly appreciate all the support and encouragement she has offered to me during my term. Cynthia has served NAADAC in various leadership position for most of her adult life, including a term as president over 20 years ago. She is one of the hardest working people I have ever met and is truly committed to NAADAC, its membership, and all addiction professionals throughout the country and around the world. We are blessed to have her as our Executive Director.

I leave NAADAC hoping that we always remember that addiction counselling is about serving people. It is about assisting and supporting individuals in their time of great need. Regardless of whether you are a life-long NAADAC member or this is your first year of membership, I urge you to please renew your commitment to NAADAC and to the addiction

counseling profession. Please consider running for a leadership position, whether with NAADAC or with your state affiliate board, and help shape the future of the addiction profession. Volunteer to serve on one or more of NAADAC's committees or consider applying to serve as a NCC AP Commissioner. NAADAC and the addiction profession need you!

I thank NAADAC members for the thousands of hours of volunteer service you provide to NAADAC and our profession each year. NAADAC is a dynamic association of dedicated and caring professionals. Thank you, NAADAC. It has been a pleasure serving you!



*In addition to serving as NAADAC's President, Kirk Bowden, PhD, MAC, NCC, LPC, serves on the Editorial Advisory Committee for Advances in Addiction & Recovery. While serving in many capacities for NAADAC through the years, Bowden also serves as Chair of the Addiction and Substance Use Disorder Program at Rio Salado College, consultant and subject matter expert for Ottawa University, a past-president of the International Coalition for Addiction Studies Education (INCASE), and as a steering committee member for SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), Partners for Recovery, and the Higher Education Accreditation and Competencies expert panel for SAMHSA/CSAT. Bowden was recognized by the Arizona Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors as Advocate of the Year for 2010, and by the American Counseling Association for the Counselor Educator Advocacy Award in 2013, the Fellow Award in 2014, Outstanding Addiction/Offender Professional Award in 2015, and most recently the California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators' Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015.*

