

The Legacy of a President

By Cynthia Moreno Tuohy, NCAC II, CDC III, SAP, NAADAC Executive Director

Every president of NAADAC hopes to leave a legacy that will be remembered as a positive influence on the people and the causes that he or she serves. Like a ring on a tree, each president leaves his or her mark during his or her two-year term. President Kirk Bowden will leave a very visible positive mark on NAADAC and its members. Through his own special talents as a counselor and an educator, he has led NAADAC through a new era of increased visibility and vitality, increased awareness of the importance of standardized addiction education and a national addiction education accreditation process, and greater financial security. NAADAC has grown under Dr. Bowden's leadership and his legacy will be passed onto the next President of NAADAC, Gerry Schmidt.

NAADAC does more than represent and support the interests of its members and the over 85,000 addiction focused professionals in the United States. In the past two years, we have expanded across the globe, bringing addiction education and certification to countries suffering from similar addiction issues, while simultaneously working to strengthen our affiliates and their influence in their states. Here in the United States, our National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP) has made strides to increase the number of those nationally certified and build a national credentialing system based on national standards. Dr. Bowden has greatly influenced and supported NCC AP in its efforts to build the vision of a national credentialing system recognized and supported by government, payors, and educators. Today, NCC AP credentials are recognized in more states and by more third party payors than ever before.

Over the past two years, NAADAC's public image has continued to grow and NAADAC's views and positions have received more media attention than ever. NAADAC will continue to advocate for addiction counselors and professionals as the medical and human service professionals who treat addiction best and for recognition of addiction professionals' vital role as part of an integrated medical team

and the continuum of care. Public recognition of this discipline's specific knowledge, skills and competencies continues to increase as we work to create healthier individuals, families and communities.

Finally, the last two years have brought us a formal recognition of the discipline of addiction counseling by the U.S. Government-funding of a Minority Fellowship Program for Addiction Counselors through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Funding for the NAADAC Minority Fellowship Program for Addiction Counselors (NMFP-AC), which started in Fall 2015, was the result of eight years of hard advocacy work by NAADAC and its partners. Dr. Bowden's guidance and support during the creation of this important program cannot be forgotten.

Each one of us hopes to leave a positive legacy that moves our profession. Each one of us who carries a passion and dedication for this work finds ways to make a difference. I applaud the efforts that each of you has made to serve communities, states, and the nation, and I encourage you to be the next person to add influence in your state to build the addiction profession and workforce! Together we can turn the tide to support and create healthier individuals, families and communities. Together we make a difference!

Blessings,
Cynthia



Cynthia Moreno Tuohy, NCAC II, CDC III, SAP, is the Executive Director of NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, and has worked as an addiction professional for over 35 years. She has been a trainer in Domestic Violence/Anger Management and Conflict Resolution for over 25 years as well as an international, national and state trainer in a variety of topics. Moreno Tuohy is also a curriculum writer in addiction screening and evaluation, counseling methods, conflict resolution, co-occurring disorders and medicated assisted treatment and recovery, and has written articles published in national and other trade magazines. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and is certified both nationally and in Washington State.

