

# Spreading the News About Student Membership

By Diane Sevening, EdD, LAC, NAADAC North Central Regional Vice President and NAADAC Student Committee Chair

Exciting things continue to happen at NAADAC — not only has NAADAC moved, now benefits for student membership are expanding. As the chair of the NAADAC Student Committee and an Assistant Professor at the University of South Dakota (USD), along with the great works of members on the committee, we have worked to develop a full student membership strategy from recruitment to retention.

College and university students majoring in addiction/alcohol/drug studies programs will be the future leaders for the addiction profession. As students advance in their studies, there comes a time for them to make the transition from student to professional. The NAADAC Student Committee is encouraging colleges/universities to require student membership in their curriculum to make this transition a reality. For example, the USD Addiction Studies (ADS) program has required all students enrolled in the field experience (internship) course to become a member of NAADAC. As a course/program requirement, financial aid is available to assist the student. A NAADAC student membership provides a professional identity of a national addiction-focused organization that provides education, advocacy, networking, national credentialing, and mentorship, along with many other benefits, including:

**Liability Insurance:** Malpractice risk starts in school. Students can be sued for malpractice while performing duties in field placement, college/university practicum, or internship upper-level classes and are required by most schools to obtain liability insurance. While some schools provide coverage for students under a school policy, students might be sharing a liability limit with many other students and/or the school coverage might have gaps that do not fully protect the student. In addition, some school's policies might only cover the liability of the college or university, and not the student. For these and other important reasons, students should be encouraged to get their own liability coverage. To help its student members, NAADAC has partnered with the American Professional Agency, Inc. to provide special professional liability coverage for students enrolled in an accredited degree program or a program approved for candidacy. Policies

start at as low as \$23 per year with occurrence form coverage limits ranging from \$1,000,000/\$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000/\$4,000,000 and cover the performance of duties in field placement. For more information, please visit [www.naadac.org/student-insurance](http://www.naadac.org/student-insurance).

**William L. White Scholarship Award:** NAADAC undergraduate and graduate student members are eligible to compete for a \$1,000–\$2,000 award by submitting a research paper on an assigned topic by May 31st of each year. This year's topic was "Research-Oriented Systems of Care: How Research is Changing the Addiction Profession." The 2016 awards will be presented at NAADAC Annual Conference in Minneapolis on October 10. For more information, please visit [www.naadac.org/white-scholarship-award](http://www.naadac.org/white-scholarship-award).

**NAADAC Minority Fellowship Program for Addiction Counselors (NMFP-AC):** The NMFP-AC aims to reduce health disparities and improve behavioral health outcomes for underserved populations by increasing the number of culturally-competent Master's level addiction counselors qualified to serve minority and LGBT populations, and transition age youth (ages 16–25). The NMFP-AC provides stipends of \$15,000 per student, as well as additional training, professional development and mentoring to students in their final year of a Master's program in addiction/substance use disorder counseling at an accredited institution. While students do not need to be a minority or a member of the LGBT community to qualify, they must commit to providing addiction counseling services to the aforementioned underserved groups for six-months post-graduation. For more information, please visit [www.naadac.org/NMFP-AC](http://www.naadac.org/NMFP-AC).

**NAADAC Publications:** All NAADAC student members will receive and have access to NAADAC's quarterly magazine, *Advances in Addiction & Recovery*, and will receive its weekly *Professional eUpdate* newsletter and bi-weekly *Addiction & Recovery eNews* newsletter by email. NAADAC's magazine provides information on NAADAC initiatives and evidence-based articles and columns providing useful information for the addiction profession. Students are encouraged to submit evidence-based scholarly



works for publication. The *Professional eUpdate* newsletter provides students with the latest news from NAADAC and its partner organizations, including educational events, trainings, resources, and career opportunities around the country. The *Addiction & Recovery eNews* delivers trending and breaking news, innovations, research, and trends impacting the addiction profession. For more information, please visit [www.naadac.org/publications](http://www.naadac.org/publications).

**Webinars:** All NAADAC student members have access to the NAADAC Institute Webinar Series and the 75 free continuing education hours provided to all NAADAC members. NAADAC provides bi-monthly live webinars and a comprehensive on-demand webinar archive available for viewing 24/7. All webinars are taught by experts in the field. The webinars cover a wide variety of topics for various skill-levels and are very helpful for both undergraduate and graduate students, especially when preparing a paper or presentation. The webinars are also helpful for educators, who might choose to utilize a webinar in class as a substitute for having an expert guest lecturer for the day. Members can obtain the free CEs by watching the webinars and successfully passing an accompanying online quiz. The free CEs are very useful and cost-efficient for students when accumulating CEs for a state credential/license or a national credential. For more information, please visit [www.naadac.org/webinars](http://www.naadac.org/webinars).

**Discounts on Educational Products:** By visiting the NAADAC online bookstore, all NAADAC student members can receive reduced rates on NAADAC independent courses and products, including manuals for co-occurring disorders, advocacy, conflict resolution in recovery, examination study materials, medication-assisted treatment and recovery, SBIRT, and more! In addition, NAADAC members receive a 20% discount on digital copies of Dr. Darryl Inaba's book, *Uppers, Downers, and All-Arounders*, a 20% discount on all Hazelden Publishing and Educational Services resources, and a 50% discount on subscriptions to *Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Weekly (ADAW)*. For more information, please visit [www.naadac.org/benefits](http://www.naadac.org/benefits).

**Discounted Educational Trainings & Conferences:** Many states offer free or reduced rates to student members attending an educational training or conference in their area and NAADAC offers a reduced rate to student members attending the annual conferences. Students are encouraged to apply for a NAADAC scholarship to attend the annual conference that assists with registration fees. The USD ADS department pays the registration fee for senior majors to attend the by-yearly South Dakota Association of Addiction and Prevention Professionals (SDAAPP) conferences. For more information, please visit [www.naadac.org/annualconference](http://www.naadac.org/annualconference).

**Voting Privileges:** Student members have the opportunity to vote for their state officers, regional vice presidents, and NAADAC officers.

## Upcoming Initiatives

The NAADAC Student Committee is currently in the process of developing criteria for the National Student Chapter Initiative. This initiative will focus on development of student chapters/associations/organizations with emphasis on growing student membership within state affiliates and NAADAC. NAADAC student chapters/associations/organizations will be established with elected officers (students) and faculty sponsorship (college, university, or training programs) to support the succession of the addiction workforce and the development of future state and national leaders while supporting the student to grow in their professional development. Retention is an issue as students' transition from university/college/training programs to working in the addiction profession and this system will help support their retention in the workforce. Materials have been developed and are available to assist university/college/training programs in the development of student chapters/associations/organizations. Indiana, Minnesota, Nevada, and South Dakota have active student chapters/associations/organizations that are utilizing the NAADAC materials and making the addiction profession known on their college/university campuses.

We, as seasoned addiction professionals, have the opportunity and privilege to mentor, inspire, and encourage students to become the emerging new leaders of NAADAC. Let's keep spreading the news and sharing our expertise about the rewards of being an addiction professional and NAADAC member.



*Diane Sevening, EdD, CDC III, is a faculty member in the Department (USD) of Alcohol and Drug Studies at the University of South Dakota (USD) and has a long and continued commitment to the association and support for the addiction profession. Sevening has served as the NAADAC Student Committee Chair since 2006 and assisted in the development of councils of students for state affiliates, guidebook (bylaws) for college and university student organizations. She has also been a faculty advisor to the local student organization, the Coalition of Students and Professionals Pursuing Advocacy (CASPPA), since 2005. In addition to her academic credentials, Sevening has presented at the 2010 National Conference on Addiction Disorders (NCAD), the 2007 Advocacy in Action Conference and the 2006 Workforce Development Summit. She served as an addiction family therapist at St. Luke's Addiction Center for one year and as the alcohol and drug counselor at the USD student health services for seven years.*



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