



June 9th, 2022

Dear NAADAC Awards Evaluation Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Pierluigi Mancini, PhD for consideration for the NAADAC 50th Anniversary Legend Award. Dr. Mancini has been working consistently in the addiction profession since 1985. He is a person in long term recovery from addiction since April 23, 1985. He first began volunteering at the Resource Center in Atlanta, providing support to counselors. Many addiction professionals know Dr. Mancini as the addiction profession's premier expert in culturally and linguistically appropriate behavioral health treatment and prevention. He is one of the most sought after national and international consultants and speakers on mental health and addiction, especially through his added expertise on underserved communities, minority populations, and culturally responsive care. In addition, Dr. Mancini is a world-renowned expert on immigrant behavioral health and health disparities.

However, behind the scenes, Dr. Mancini has also made incredible contributions in the area of mentorship, coaching, clinical supervision, and truly building a strong clinical infrastructure for the Addiction Profession. I genuinely believe that a leader's greatest accomplishments are the fruits of their labor through investments in "people capital" (in the form of mentorship, discipleship, and raising emerging leaders in the field). Dr. Mancini has made tremendous investments in the careers of thousands of addiction professionals, myself included. From developing a clinical supervision training series in Spanish to expanding the National Hispanic and Latino ATTC, his legendary contributions are endless.

Dr. Mancini founded Georgia's only Latino behavioral health program in 1999 to serve the immigrant population by providing cultural and linguistically appropriate services in English,

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Spanish, and Portuguese. He is an author, cultural competence consultant, and media expert. And, yet again, throughout all of these leadership accomplishments his investment in people remain consistent – Dr. Mancini helped over 41 bilingual clinicians secure their license or certification in the State of Georgia while running his clinic.

Recently, Dr. Mancini worked with NAADAC in translating all of the certification exams into Spanish. His passion continues to be building an infrastructure in the United States where anyone who is seeking help for a substance use disorder or a mental illness can find that help in their primary or preferred language. The translation of these tests will help many individuals to take the test in Spanish and improve their ability to become a certified addiction counselor. Dr. Mancini also worked with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop a training curriculum in Spanish and Portuguese to be used by clinicians in the 12 Latin American countries where the almost five million Venezuelans had to flee to because of difficult conditions in their country.

Dr. Mancini developed several public service announcement and documentaries addressing Latino underage drinking, suicide prevention and prescription drugs and those have won a combined six (6) EMMY[®] awards. He's been honored with the National Latinx Psychological Association Star Vega Distinguished Service Award; the UnidosUS (NCLR) - Helen Rodríguez-Trías Award for Health; and the Mental Health America "Heroes in the Fight" Award and was named one of the 50 Most Influential Latinos in Georgia. He is currently the Chair of the Georgia Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council and serves as the Chair-Elect for the Mental Health America National Board of Directors. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse and R.I. International, and recently joined the Advisory Council for The Center of Victims of Torture, an international organization helping

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refugees across the globe. With these legendary accomplishments, I strongly recommend Pierluigi Mancini, PhD. for consideration for the NAADAC 50th Anniversary Legend Award.

Sincerely,

Samson Teklemariam

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