

2016 ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE EVENT REVIEW

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The 2016 *Accentuate the Positive Event* supported by the Rehabilitation Counseling Coalition was held September 16- 18, 2016 at the University of Memphis. This productive and informative event brought together educators, practitioners, and students in order to assess the future direction for various levels of Rehabilitation Counseling. The event was kicked off on Friday with a presentation by Dr. Karen Barrett entitled “*Why we need a bigger tent*”. This presentation set the tone of the event by examining the past limitations of the field of Rehabilitation Counseling and proposing possible strategies to become a more inclusive profession.



The event continued with a presentation titled “*What makes vocational rehabilitation unique?*” by Mr. Bob Pare and Dr. Ray Forez. This interactive forum allowed educators, practitioners, and students to openly share their perspectives on this topic.

Next, came an eye opening presentation by Dr. Chad Duncan and Dr. Alan Bruce “*Technology, Globalization, and Disability*”. This presentation provided global strategies for developing people centered and integrated health services across the lifespan.

The second day of the event began with a presentation by Dr. Alan Bruce titled “*Uncharted Futures*”. This presentation gave a perspective on the future of Rehabilitation Counseling and possible strategies for adapting to the changing world with an International perspective.

“Pay peanuts, you get monkeys”- Dr. Alan

ETHICS, EHTICS, AND MORE ETHICS!

An outstanding presentation was given by Dr. Regina Robertson and Dr. Michelle Marme titled “*Ethical Inquiry*”. This interactive presentation allowed attendees to identify the many roles that they play and helped to identify ethical codes available for both graduate and undergraduate programs.

Immediately following was a presentation by Dr. David Perry, Dr. Penny Wilmering, and Dr. Chrisann Schiro-Geist titled “*Accreditation-Ethical Opportunities*”. This presentation reviewed several accrediting bodies in order to assess options for moving forward in the Rehabilitation

The Sunday closing event was a presentation titled “*Research Opportunities*” By Dr. Gina Oswald and Dr. Chad Duncan, which allowed attendees to collaborate and develop plans to provide the empirical research needed to advocate for the profession of Rehabilitation Counseling.

Overall, the 2016 *Accentuate the Positive Conference* was an outstanding scholarly conference which was supported by the Rehabilitation Counseling Coalition and was very informative and well attended. Several strategies were discussed and

developed to help catapult the profession of Rehabilitation Counseling and provide it with the platform that it truly deserves.