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# CORE NEWS

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Volume 14, Number 1

November 2003

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## New Standards Approved

The Council on Rehabilitation Education, Inc. at its annual meeting in July has approved new accreditation standards effective with programs applying for review after August 2004. The new standards are available on the CORE website: [www.core-rehab.org](http://www.core-rehab.org)

Appreciation is expressed to the CORE Task Force on Standards Review Lance W. Carluccio and Arthur Dell Orto; to the Commission on Standards and Accreditation chaired by Betty Hedgeman; and to the final editing committee co-chaired by Bud Stude and Jim Bellini.

This was truly a cooperative effort of RCE program coordinators and the broad community of rehabilitation counselors, rehabilitation agency directors, RSA, and representatives of rehabilitation consumer organizations. We express our thanks to RSA Commissioner Wilson for her sponsorship of a daylong meeting of CORE representatives and the leadership of consumer organizations.

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### Presentations on the New Standards

CORE has begun a series of presentations on the new standards at the NCRE/CSAVR/RSA Conference in Arlington, VA. Presentations are also proposed for the NCRE meeting in Tucson in February 2004 and at the American Counseling Association Conference in Kansas City in March 2004.

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### CORE Presents at AASCB

CORE will this year again present a program at the National Meeting of the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) in San Diego in January 2004. Dennis Maki, CORE President and Don Linkowski, CORE Executive Director, will present the New Standards. Also, we will meet with board members of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) at this meeting.

### Site Reviewer Training in Tucson

There will be site reviewer training in Tucson on February 19, 2004 from 1-5PM, just prior to the NCRE meeting. To register, send email to Don Linkowski at [dlink@wans.net](mailto:dlink@wans.net)

## President's Report 2002-2003

Dennis R. Maki



During this past year the process of CORE's Standard's Review has provided a forum for consumers, students, practitioners as well as rehabilitation counselor educators to participate in a national dialogue regarding the minimum curricular standards for our profession. This dialogue has occurred in Town Meetings organized in conjunction with professional meetings, in the Rehabilitation Education Journal, in classrooms, as well as through conversations between stakeholders since the draft document of the Proposed Standards was distributed last September.

Throughout this discussion the overriding concern was to do the right thing. Opinions varied and the discussions helped clarify the Proposed Standards and their impact on the pre-service preparation of future rehabilitation counselors. Among the most controversial change proposed was the change from a 48-semester hour minimum for a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling to a 60-semester hour requirement. At our meeting this year we deliberated and decided on this and the other proposed standards revision. We set our personal agendas aside and asked the questions of what is in the best interest of our profession as it projects itself in the new millennium. What does our next generation of rehabilitation counselor need to know, what new and emerging competencies will they need to possess in order to provide best practices for those persons with disabilities who seek their service. We were indeed fortunate to have the ongoing validity studies to empirically enumerate the roles and functions in today's practice.

*Continued on Page 2.*

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**President's Report Continued from P 1.**

The 2004 CORE Standards are now available on the CORE web site and I encourage you to review and become familiar with them. You will notice that the organization of the eight core curricular areas is similar to that of CACREP in their title and order. It is believed that this will allow others, especially those in the credentialing arena to more easily see the parity between us. All the areas from the previous standards and the newly added content have simply been reorganized under these eight areas. The curriculum standards that are parallel to CACREP are as follows: C.1 Professional Identity; C.2 Social and Cultural Diversity Issues; C.3 Human Growth and Development; C.4 Employment and Career Development; C.5 Counseling and Consultation; C.6 Group Work; C.7 Assessment; and C.8 Research and Program Evaluation. Two additional specialized rehabilitation counseling standards are: C.9 Medical, Functional, Environmental and Psychosocial Aspects of Disability; and C.10 Rehabilitation Services and Resources.

Distance education programs are to be held to the same set of standards as on campus program.

In addition, organizationally we combined Sections C: Curriculum and E: Educational Outcomes into one embodying both now entitled: SECTION C: General Curriculum Requirements, Knowledge Domains, and Educational Outcomes. The first standard under this section is the result of the discussion over the 48 vs. 60 semester hour requirement. It now reads as:

Graduates awarded master's degrees shall have participated in graduate study having earned a minimum of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours. In states that require a 60 semester hour program or 90 quarter hours for licensure for counselors, the program shall identify an additional 12 hours for those students desiring to qualify for licensure.

If you would like more information, Don Linkowski and I will be presenting The Council on Rehabilitation Education 2004 Standards at the NCRE Conference in Tucson on February 20, 2004. In addition, Don and I will be joined by Brandon Hunt from the CACREP Board and will be presenting a program entitled, The 2004 Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) **Standards: Parity with CACREP** at the ACA Conference.

The decisions made with regard to the 2004 Standards are important to our field and also will determine our comparability within the broader counseling profession. As we seek parity with counselors in state licensing, these Standards will be reviewed. One key implication of the new Standards will be in the AASCB Portability Policies and Procedures, which are currently being reviewed by state license boards. This plan seeks to establish a National Credential Registry Program. If approved registrants must demonstrate qualifications to one of two tiers.

Tier I requires 48 semester hours including a master's degree in counseling or related field that is accredited by CACREP. The eight core areas of curriculum designated by CACREP, which now are adopted by CORE, are included in the educational requirements. Tier II requires 60 semester hours and also specifies

the eight core areas. There is additional course work required in each tier beyond the eight areas as well as post masters supervision requirements. States can select which Tier's requirements they will follow. An individual who possesses the Tier I requires 48 semester hours including a master's degree in counseling or related field that is accredited by CACREP. The eight core areas of curriculum designated by CACREP, which now are adopted by CORE, are included in the educational requirements. Tier II requires 60 semester hours and also specifies the eight core areas. There is additional course work required in each tier beyond the eight areas as well as post masters supervision requirements. States can select which Tier's requirements they will follow. An individual who possesses the qualifications for Tier II can be considered in all states, that is both II and I. A counselor who qualifies as a Tier I can only seek to move his or her license to other Tier I states. Tier II offers counselors the greatest portability across the United States. The CRC exam is included in the language of the draft portability document. CACREP and not CORE is currently referenced in the document in reference to the educational qualifications. Executive Director Don Linkowski and I are scheduled to present a program entitled The New Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) Standards: Parity with CACREP on January 9, 2004 at the AASCB annual meeting.

As we look beyond the standards revision, we need to continue to be active in the professionalization and credentialing discussions. ACA at their Governing Council meeting reaffirmed that the preparation of students by both CORE and CACREP accredited programs is functionally equivalent for purposes of licensure and further that NCC's and CRC's have met equally rigorous standards of education and experience in achieving these credentials. We are being successful in our advocacy for our profession and the graduates of CORE accredited programs as they seek access to contemporary marketplaces and parity as professional counselors. We need to be proactive in partnership with CACREP, NBCC, CRCC, ACA, NCRE, AASCB, ASPA to advocate for the continuing inclusion of rehabilitation counselors and their credentials in the ongoing developments affecting their ability to practice. ACA, NBCC and CACREP have advanced an agenda to enhance and include counseling as a profession in the health care delivery system. Rehabilitation counseling organizations including ARCA and NRCA partnership with CRCC and CORE have had a similar agenda. Like CACREP and NBCC, CORE and CRCC must be present and recognized at meetings of ASPA and AASCB where policy and the nature of the credentials to practice are established. Together and in collaboration the potential for success of these agendas is far greater than when a parochial posture has been posited by either camp.

I want to thank all of the members of the Commission and Council, especially Lance Carluccio and Art Dell Orto who have performed the enormous task of gathering data and drafting the Standards Review document. They did this in a professional and timely manner. In addition, I want to acknowledge Don Linkowski for the responsible job he did in this year as our Executive Director. Finally, Sue Denys in our Administrative Office once again performed her duties in an efficient and personable manner.

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## **Executive Director's Report 2002-2003**

### **Donald C. Linkowski**

This year of Standards Review meant several meetings were held to review and receive input regarding proposed new standards for CORE. Meetings attended were NCRE, ACA, AASCB, and an "Empowerment" meeting facilitated by San Diego University in collaboration with George Washington University at the request of the RSA Commissioner. Commissioner Wilson was in attendance as was former Commissioner Schroeder, and representatives of about seven consumer organizations. I presented a Profile of CORE to the group and participated in the discussion, as did Standards Review Co-chairs Lance Carluccio and Art Dell Orto.

At the meeting of the American Association of State Counseling Boards in Charleston, SC, I presented on the new standards with Irmo Marini, CRCC Chair, in a program on New Developments in Rehabilitation Counseling Accreditation and Certification. At this same meeting I presented a program with Carol Bobby on Collaboration of CORE and CACREP.

An ARCA Town Meeting was held at ACA in Anaheim, CA, where Brandon Hunt presented on the Comparison of Proposed CORE Standards to CACREP and I facilitated an open meeting on the new standards.

Most recently, all university coordinators of CORE accredited programs were surveyed on the new standards. About one-half of the coordinators responded to this email survey.

Site Review Training was conducted with Marv Kuehn at the October NCRE meeting in Arlington, VA. I propose not conducting additional site reviewer training until after new standards are approved and policies are reviewed and revised as necessary. We also need to consider developing new materials for conducting this training and possible use of alternative media, e.g., video, web-based training..

Other meetings I presented and participated at were Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditation (ASPA), in Cleveland OH in September 2002 and quarterly meetings of the 25+ DC Accreditors that are held in the Washington DC area. The Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) workshop was attended in June 2003 in Washington DC on Enhancing Accreditation Accountability: What are the Roles and Responsibilities of Accreditors, Institutions, and Programs?

This year 13 programs were site-reviewed and all reports were edited and shared with the universities. Three of these had large distance education programs and separate surveys were conducted for distance and campus students and graduates and their supervisors and employers. The Commission and/or Council needs to evaluate the results of this experimental approach and decide how to proceed in the future. Also, the fee structure for the separate surveys needs to be considered.

I also recommend several policy changes to the Commission and Council. It was approved that hereafter the Preliminary Review Committee Report would be sent only to the program coordinator, not to the university officials. Only the final report of accreditation and conditions and recommendations would be sent to the university administration.

In addition, I suggested that CORE begin a process to develop a strategic plan for the next three years. A committee was approved and requested to report at the annual meeting next year. Past President Marv Kuehn was appointed as the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee.

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# CORE FACT SHEET: 2003-04

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**OFFICERS:** Dennis R. Maki, Ph.D., *President*; Richard Coelho, Ph.D. *Vice President*; Frances Lowder, *Secretary*; Joe Lechowicz, Ph.D., *Treasurer*.

**HISTORY:** The Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) was formed in June 1971 and incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in Washington, DC, in 1972. CORE has since reincorporated in the State of Illinois. In 1975, CORE was recognized by COPA, and was subsequently recognized by CORPA. CORE is now recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

**MISSION:** The mission of CORE is the accreditation of RCE Programs in order to promote the effective delivery of rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities by promoting and fostering continuing review and improvement of master's degree level RCE Programs. CORE's accreditation process promotes program self-improvement rather than outside censure. A concomitant purpose of the process is to meet the personnel needs of both public and private rehabilitation agencies by providing graduates who have the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to provide

rehabilitation counseling services to individuals with physical, mental, and/or emotional disabilities.

**COMPOSITION:** CORE is composed of representatives from each of five national professional organizations that are concerned with rehabilitation counseling: the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association (NRCA), the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA), the National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE), the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSVAR), and the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind (NCSAB). CORE also has two public members: one who represents the consumer public and one who represents the public at large. In addition to the granting of program recognition, CORE serves as a forum for the evaluation of accreditation policies and practices as well as the effectiveness of accreditation efforts.

**CONSULTATION SERVICES:** Institutions interested in establishing, reorganizing or expanding an RCE Program can obtain program development consultation services from CORE. Information regarding the service can be obtained from the Executive Director of CORE.

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## CORE HOURS

CORE's Administrative Office is open from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Central Time. The office is equipped with voice mail so that messages can be left anytime.

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**CORE Master's Programs in Rehabilitation Counselor Education  
2003-04 Academic Year**

**Candidate for Accreditation:** Granted to programs in the early stages of development or implementation, up to the point of graduating ten (10) students. This recognition provides evidence that a program complies with those standards applicable at the program's stage of development. Programs accredited at the candidate level are noted with an asterisk.

**Accreditation:** Granted to programs that have been fully operational long enough to allow for the objective assessment of the professional performance of graduates. This recognition provides evidence that a program complies with all standards and is deemed able to maintain that level of compliance through the duration of the recognition.

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**CORE RECOGNITION UPDATE**

CORE recognized the following RCE programs at its annual meeting, held in July, 2003:

- Auburn University
- Maryville University
- New York University
- San Diego State University
- St. Cloud State University
- State University of New York-Buffalo
- Texas Tech University\*
- Thomas University\*
- Troy State University\*
- University of Arkansas-Fayetteville
- University of Missouri
- University of North Florida
- Virginia Commonwealth University

\*Candidate for Accreditation

**PROGRAMS UNDER REVIEW**

CORE programs undergoing review in 2003-04:

- Ball State University
- California State University-Sacramento
- Coppin State College
- Drake University
- Fort Valley State University
- Hofstra University
- Ohio University
- Pennsylvania State University
- St. John's University
- University of Arkansas-Little Rock
- University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey
- University of Northern Colorado
- University of Pittsburgh\*
- University of South Carolina
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Western Washington University