

Social Justice Symposium

March 12-13, 2021

Online Event

Sponsored by the MSU Student Chapter
of
Counselors for Social Justice

WebEx Event registration required for each day.

Click [HERE](#) to register for March 12, 2021 🗨️ Click [HERE](#) to register for March 13th, 2021
Free National Board of Certified Counselors ([NBCC](#)) Continuing Education Credits offered for each session.



Schedule

Friday – March 12

9:00 AM	Opening Remarks	CSJ Student Members
9:30 AM (60 minutes)	Session 1	The RAW Truth: Realism! Authenticity! Wisdom! Dr. S. Kent Butler, Jr. The University of Central Florida American Counseling Association President-elect
10:30 (50 minutes)	Session 2	The Experiences of Same-Sex Couples in Mississippi Dr. John Marszalek Southern New Hampshire University
11:20 (10 minutes)	Break	Break
11:30 (50 minutes)	Session 3	Addressing Health Disparities Through Community-Based Participatory Research Dr. Dawn Bishop McLin Jackson State University
12:45 (15 minutes)	Closing Remarks	CSJ Student Members

Saturday – March 13

9:00 AM	Opening Remarks	CSJ Student Members
9:10 AM (50 minutes)	Session 1	Social Justice: The How-To of Allyship and Advocacy Dr. Collette T. Dollarhide The University of Ohio Counselors for Social Justice President
10:00 (50 minutes)	Session 2	Tales from the Golden Cage Dr. Selma Yzanga The University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley Counselors for Social Justice Past President, 2013
11:20 (10 minutes)	Break	Break
11:30 (50 minutes)	Session 3	Advocacy and Leadership: Grassroot Strategies to Advance Social Justice Initiatives Dr. Shon D. Smith North Carolina Agricultural & Technological State University Association for Multicultural Counseling & Development Past President, 2018
12:20 (90 minutes)	Panel Discussion	Social Justice, COVID-19, and It's Impact on Minoritized Communities Dr. McLin; Dr. Marszalek; Dr. Dollarhide, Dr. Yzanga; Dr. Smith; and Gabe Cazares, Director of Disabilities City of Houston, TX
1:50 (10 minutes)	Closing Remarks	CSJ Student Members

Presentations

The RAW Truth: Realism! Authenticity! Wisdom!

S. Kent Butler, Jr., Ph.D., NCC, NCSC

Dr. Butler will use his personal life story to speak to the effects of privilege on his own mental wellness and resolve and share best practices for removing culturally biased barriers. This interactive session will also showcase how to successfully balance counseling with social justice advocacy. This presentation will provide attendees with insights that help them to ascertain whether intervening on an individual or community wide scale is appropriate.

The Experiences of Same-Sex Couples in Mississippi

John Marszalek III, Ph.D., LPC, ACS

The presenter will discuss what he learned from his interviews of same-sex couples living in small towns and rural areas of Mississippi, which are included in his book, *Coming Out of the Magnolia Closet: Same Sex Couples in Mississippi* (University Press of Mississippi, 2020). He will describe the complicated relationship between these couples and their communities, influenced by southern culture, religion, and family norms. Because the couples are diverse in age, race, gender, and religion/spirituality, the couples' stories demonstrate how they negotiate aspects of their identities depending on the setting, people, and circumstances.

Addressing Health Disparities Through Community-Based Participatory Research

Dawn Bishop McLin, Ph.D.

This discussion will examine Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) as a research paradigm to understand and address health disparities at the community level. Participatory Action and Community-Engaged Research is defined by the Kellogg Foundation as a "collaborative approach that equitably involves all partners in the research process...with the aim of combining knowledge and action for social change to improve community health and eliminate health disparities". Not a set of methods, CBPR is an overall orientation which fundamentally changes the relationship between researchers and the researched. This approach to research focuses on the empowerment of those for whom the research is relevant by ensuring that they or their representatives have the opportunity for full involvement in developing and undertaking studies, and in disseminating the research findings.

Social Justice: The How-To of Allyship and Advocacy

Colette T. Dollarhide, Ed.D., NCC, ACS, LPC-S (OH)

The need for social justice is an ethical, moral, and human imperative. The systems of enslavement, commodification, and genocide that have been perpetuated against Black, Latinae, Asian, and Indigenous persons have been built into every system in this country, including education, law, mental health, and business. We can no longer turn a blind eye to the systems of oppression that surround us. We must learn to become allies and advocates in our schools, offices, and universities. This session will define social justice and the moral mandate of our profession, and outline a process for engaging in allyhood, co-conspiracy, and advocacy.

Tales from the Golden Cage

Selma Yzanga, Ph.D., LPC-TX, EMDR Certified

Chimimanda Ngoze Adichi cautions us about the power that a single story has to define a population. Immigrants and refugees have long been depicted as dangerous, opportunistic, and desperate. These representations tell an erroneous and incomplete story that prevents us from appreciating the complexity, resourcefulness, and resilience that characterize people on the move. Critical storytelling, mutual empathy, and relational witnessing will be offered as tools for creating counter-narratives that allow us to experience inclusive stories that enrich our understanding of newcomers.

Advocacy and Leadership: Grassroot Strategies to Advance Social Justice Initiatives

Shon D. Smith. Ed.D.

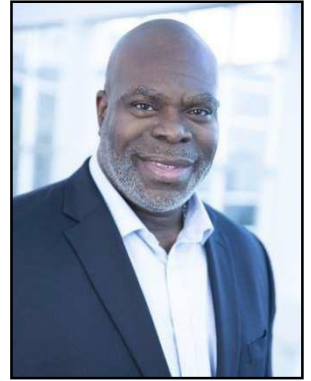
What's the best way to advocate? I'm ready, but where do I begin? What if I'm afraid?

In this session, Dr. Smith will outline practical leadership and advocacy strategies that address these questions and more. Using the American Counseling Association's Advocacy Competencies as a guide, Dr. Smith will outline approaches for initiating positive social action and confronting systemic barriers that challenge counselor delivery of equitable client services. Further, Dr. Smith will discuss the potency of social justice leadership and its significance in cultivating equity, empowerment, and inclusion in all spaces.

Speakers

Dr. S. Kent Butler, Jr.

S. Kent Butler, Jr. holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, with a concentration in Counseling Psychology, from the University of Connecticut. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC), and Nationally Certified School Counselor (NCSC). In February of 2020, Dr. Butler was elected President-Elect of the American Counseling Association (ACA). His presidential year is 2021–2022. In July of 2019, Dr. Butler was appointed Interim Chief Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Officer at the University of Central Florida. In March of 2020, he was selected as a Fellow within the National Association of Chief Diversity Officer in Higher Education's Chief Diversity Officer Fellows Program (NADOHE-CDOFP). He is a 2020–2021 cohort (C-7) member.



The professional leadership program mentors new and early career Chief Diversity Officers. Dr. Butler was recently promoted to Professor of Counselor Education at the University of Central Florida and has served as a Faculty Fellow for Inclusive Excellence within the Office of the Provost.

Dr. Butler presently serves as faculty advisor to Chi Sigma Iota International Honor Society (CSI), the Counselor Education Doctoral Student Organization (CEDSO), Project for Haiti Knights, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He served as the Principal Investigator for The High-Risk Delinquent and Dependent Child Educational Research Project: Situational Environmental Circumstances Mentoring Program (SEC), which was a partnership between the University of Central Florida and several Florida universities. This grant opportunity has transitioned into the UCF Young Knights Mentoring Project, a program that supports students at Hungerford Elementary School in Eatonville, FL.

Also, on the national level, Dr. Butler has served the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD) as the 2011–2012 President and ACA Governing Council Representative (2015–2018). He is honored to be a member of AMCD's Multicultural Counseling Competencies Revisions Committee (2014–2015) which produced the ACA-AMCD endorsed Multicultural Social Justice Counseling Competencies (MSJCC). In April of 2016, Dr. Butler was bestowed with the prestigious ACA Fellow Award. His research and academic interests lie in the areas of multicultural and international counseling, social justice, mentoring, counseling work as it relates specifically to African American males, group counseling, school counseling, and multicultural supervision.

Dr. John Marszalek

John F. Marszalek III, Ph.D. is a National Certified Counselor and Licensed Professional Counselor in Mississippi. He has been a Counselor Educator for over 20 years and is currently clinical faculty of the online Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at Southern New Hampshire University. He received his Ph.D. in Counselor Education at Mississippi State University.



Dr. Marszalek's research has been published in chapters of edited books and professional counseling journals. *Coming Out of the Magnolia Closet* is his first book.

Before moving back to Mississippi, he lived in Buffalo, NY, Washington, D.C., Fort Lauderdale, FL, and New Orleans, LA.

Dr. Marszalek lives with his husband and their two dogs in Starkville, Mississippi.

Speakers

Dr. Dawn Bishop McLin

Dr. Dawn Bishop McLin is a Tenured Professor in the Department of Psychology at Jackson State University. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and a Master's in Guidance and Counseling from Jackson State University. Dr. McLin received her Ph.D. in Counselor Education from Mississippi State University. Prior to becoming a full-time faculty member in the Department, Dr. McLin served as the Associate Director of the Mississippi Urban Research Center (MURC) at Jackson State University. She is a past recipient of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Health Disparities Research Award. She serves as the President of the Jackson State University Faculty Senate.



Her research interests include healthcare disparities among minority populations, community based participatory research, emergency preparedness, disaster response, teaching with mobile technologies, psychology of the urban environment, gender issues, and unintentional injury and violence prevention. She has served as Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator on several research projects funded by the National Conference of Black Mayors, the Mississippi Department of Public Safety Planning and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Dr. McLin has experience creating community partnerships and coalitions. Past partners include Meharry Medical College, the Jackson Public School District and several concerned individuals, agencies and organizations from the public, non-profit, and private sector. She is a Charter Member of the Madison County (MS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and a member of the Lefleur's Bluff (MS) Chapter of the Links, Inc.

Dr. Colette T. Dollarhide

Dr. Colette Dollarhide is a professor and program chair for Counselor Education and the Associate Chair for the Department of Educational Studies at The Ohio State University (Columbus, Ohio). She has been a counselor educator for over 25 years and a counselor for 32 years. She is a cisgender, able-bodied, straight, middle class woman with a highly diverse family; she never forgets her privilege and works to be a lifelong learner about whiteness, social justice, privilege, oppression, and psychological and systemic liberation. She strives every day to be a co-conspirator, disrupter, and servant leader. Her teaching and research interests include social justice, leadership, supervision, school counseling, pedagogy, and professional identity, all through a qualitative research lens. She is currently serving as the president of Counselors for Social Justice, and is a co-founder of Ohio Counselors for Social Justice. She lives in Columbus, Ohio with her family (including four grandchildren) and four dogs.



Dr. Selma de Leon-Yzanga

Selma de Leon-Yzanga, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Counseling at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, one of the nation's largest Hispanic Serving Institutions. Dr. Yzanga has held numerous leadership positions in the Texas Counseling Association (TCA) and the American Counseling Association (ACA). In 2007, Dr. Yzanga founded Texas Counselors for Social Justice, a division of TCA dedicated to addressing the oppression and marginalization of ethnic and social minorities. Most recently her clinical work, advocacy, and scholarship are directed at addressing the immigration crisis at the South Texas/Mexican border.



Speakers

Dr. Shon D. Smith

Dr. Shon Smith has been a professional counselor for over 25 years, a clinical supervisor for 22 years, and a counselor educator for 21 years. Dr. Smith currently serves as faculty of the Department of Counseling at North Carolina Agricultural and Technological State University. His primary research interests are in counselor education program design and evaluation, use of technology in counselor education curriculum, multicultural & social justice issues in community mental health & counselor programs, clinical supervision, leadership and advocacy competency development, the intersection of mental health and public policy, mental health disparities gap, intimate partner violence prevention & relapse prevention, and working with military personnel and families (reservist, national guard) on adjustment and readjustment issues.



A veteran, SSG Smith has been deployed to Africa, Iraq, Afghanistan, and within the U.S. He has conducted several humanitarian missions to Central and South America as a Combat Medic and received a Bronze Star and other military awards for his service.

Dr. Smith has served the counseling profession in several leadership roles on a state, regional and national level through elected office, committee involvement or membership that include the American Counseling Association, Association of Multicultural Counseling and Development, The International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors, Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, and the Florida and Pennsylvania Counseling Associations. Currently, he serves as the Immediate Past-President for the Association of Multicultural Counseling and Development, a division within ACA.

Dr. Smith received his doctoral degree in Counselor Education and Supervision with a focus in Marriage and Family Therapy from Duquesne University, a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and School Counseling and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice both from Edinboro University.

Director Gabe Cazares

Gabe Cazares is a proud Texan, a queer, disabled Latinx, and a self-described policy wonk. He currently serves as the Director of the Mayor's office for People with Disabilities for the City of Houston, Texas. In this capacity, Gabe oversees the accessible and timely delivery of city services, programs, and activities for over 215,000 Houstonians with Disabilities. Additionally, Gabe works collaboratively with the Houston City Council, Houston's disability community, city agencies, and community partners to build a more accessible and inclusive Houston.



Prior to his appointment, Gabe served as the Manager of Government Affairs at the National Federation of the Blind in Baltimore, Maryland. He was responsible for monitoring, drafting, and shepherding legislation and regulations that impact blind Americans through the federal legislative and rule-making process. Additionally, he provided supervisory support to the government affairs staff and coordinated their policy portfolios. Gabe holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a Spanish minor from Texas State University.

Gabe is committed to disability, LGBTQ, and immigrant justice work. He prioritizes intersectional movements that center the voices of queer, disabled, and immigrant people of color. He and his partner, Derin Dacey, enjoy being civically engaged, craft beer, and spoiling their 5-year-old rescue dog, Sam.