

Excellence in Counseling Research Grants Committee

Charge:

The Excellence in Counseling Research Grants Committee oversees the selection of grant awards in three topical areas: **1) Developmental Counseling, 2) Wellness, and 3) Advocacy**. The Developmental area incorporates developmental theory, assessment, and intervention to further our knowledge of the benefits of counseling from a developmental, life span perspective. The Wellness area incorporates wellness theory, assessment and intervention to further our knowledge of the benefits of counseling from a wellness perspective for all persons across cultures, genders, races, and geographical locations. The Advocacy area is associated with a specified theme each year derived from the six advocacy themes associated with the CSI mission and goals (counselor education, inter-professional issues, intra-professional issues, marketplace recognition, research, prevention and wellness). The CSI Executive Council with recommendations from the Research Grant Committee identifies an advocacy research theme each year.

Timelines and call for proposals are posted on the CSI website. The CSI Executive Council annually will establish funding priorities and amounts. We recognize that all submissions will have merit; however, all submissions will not meet the identified priorities within a given year. Because of funding limitations and priorities, we will fund only a portion of submitted proposals. CSI reserves the right to fund all or only a portion of a proposal, and to recommend changes in research design prior to approval for funding.

Funding is made upon receipt of the final report/manuscript prepared based on the grant project.

Chi Sigma Iota
Excellence in Counseling Research Grants
Call for Proposals
2009

The mission of Chi Sigma Iota is to promote scholarship, research, professionalism, leadership, and excellence in counseling; to encourage the pursuit of personal excellence by members; and to recognize high attainment in the pursuit of academic and clinical excellence in the profession of counseling. To fulfill that mission, the first two fundamental purposes of the CSI Strategic Plan are stated as: (1) To promote and recognize excellence in counseling scholarship, research, leadership, and practice; and (2) To support and enhance the counseling profession. These purposes are the foundation for the CSI Excellence in Counseling Research Grants Program.

This Program is intended to support and enhance the counseling profession through targeted support of research by CSI members. *Preference will be given to proposals that clearly describe how the research investigation will address the focus of the CSI funding priorities for this year, including the [CSI Strategic Plan](#), [CSI Advocacy Themes](#) and [Principles and Practices of Leadership Excellence](#).*

A limited number of awards are available in 2009 with amounts ranging from \$250 to \$750 with a total of grants not to exceed \$2000 per category, **1) Developmental Counseling, 2) Wellness, and 3) Advocacy**. Applicants must be current/active CSI student or professional members. The applicant's CSI Chapter Faculty Advisor's endorsement on behalf of an active Chapter is required. Professional members at large without the benefit of an active Chapter may request consideration as an exception to this requirement. Applicants will be notified of determinations made by the CSI Excellence in Counseling Research Grants Review Committee no later than July 14, 2009.

Grant awardees will be recognized at the CSI Awards Ceremony during the ACA Convention in 2009 and may be asked to showcase their research proposal in poster format. Recipients are also encouraged to submit their results for publication in a refereed journal. Graduate students enrolled in counseling programs are particularly encouraged to apply.

Investigations may include survey research, outcome research, and both quantitative and qualitative research with a variety of populations (e.g., counseling students, supervisees/supervisors, counselors, trainers, or clients and their families). *Preference will be given to proposals that clearly describe how the research investigation will address the focus of the CSI funding priorities for this year, including the CSI advocacy themes and Principles and Practices of Leadership Excellence.*

For all proposals, applicants are encouraged to study the advocacy themes and information included at csi-net.org under the Professional Advocacy links. In

addition, prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the Chair of the Excellence in Counseling Research Grants Committee to discuss their ideas in advance of proposal submission. The Chair may encourage consultation with sub-chairs in each of the three priority areas or with CSI officers and committee chairs. **To apply, complete the CSI Grant Application and submit it electronically as an email attachment to info@csi-net.org; or send by postal mail to the address below (if sending by postal mail, please submit 5 print copies of the application) postmarked by the deadline of June 1, 2009. Application packets should be mailed to Dr. Donna M. Gibson, USC/Dept. of Educational Studies, 263 Wardlaw, Columbia, SC 29208, 803-777-3048 gibsond@mailbox.sc.edu *The deadline for receipt of application is June 1, 2009.***

2009 Developmental Counseling Research Priorities

Developmental counseling theories and strategies have been a part of counseling for decades. Based upon the philosophical values of a preventative, proactive human development approach, this funding priority is intended to support research that advances our understanding of theory, assessment, interventions, and outcomes of developmental interventions.

Investigations may include survey research (e.g., prevalence and extent of practitioners' understanding), outcome research (e.g., client status and/or satisfaction after having worked with a counselor), process or qualitative research (e.g., in-depth interviews with professional counselors and/or trainers) with a variety of populations (e.g., counseling students, supervisees/supervisors, counselors, trainers, or clients and their families). Preference will be given to proposals that clearly describe how the research investigation will further the understanding and application of developmental principles/assumptions within the counseling profession.

This funding priority addresses Advocacy Theme E, Research, specifically "To promote professional counselors and the services that they provide based on scientifically sound research."

Objective 1. To demonstrate the effectiveness of counseling through outcome research.

Examples of funded projects under this priority may be found at csi-net-org within the Research and Grants link. In thinking about studies in this area, prospective applicants may ask questions such as: how can counseling supervisors use knowledge of cognitive developmental styles of supervisees to provide more effective counseling supervision? Does matching counselor and supervisor cognitive styles make a difference? What is the relationship between counselor and client cognitive styles? Does a match or mismatch of styles affect perceptions of counselor empathy? Counseling outcomes?

Drs. Allen and Mary Bradford Ivey also have added to the CSI funds in hopes that research initiatives associated with Developmental Counseling and Therapy (DCT) would be encouraged. There is a body of research and literature available to guide those interested in advancing knowledge of how DCT contributes to effectiveness in counseling. All such efforts will be included within the CSI funding to promote professional counseling as developmentally based across the life span for all persons.

2009 Wellness Counseling Research Priorities

Wellness refers to the optimization of development and functioning and presupposes a focus on holism. There is a strong foundation for wellness research in the counseling literature and familiarity with wellness models based in counseling is essential for this funding priority. Wellness of counselors, counselor educators, and clients, as well as other professionals who interact with clients may be the focus of research efforts. Preference will be given to proposals with a holistic focus that incorporate multiple aspects of wellness rather than those with a narrow scope focusing on only one wellness component (e.g., exercise, spirituality).

Proposals that focus on studying the effectiveness of wellness theories and interventions are encouraged, as well as those that examine outcomes of wellness oriented interventions with client populations. This is a rich topical area for anyone seeking a research agenda for their professional development. So many client groups from children to older persons have been ignored from a health and wellness perspective that one's career could be shaped by addressing only one of these populations.

CSI's advocacy themes include a focus on wellness through Theme F: Prevention/Wellness. The Goal of this theme is: "To promote optimum human development across the life span through prevention and wellness. Within this goal are three primary objectives, which are stated below along with examples of possible research in each area:

Objective 1. To encourage client wellness by identifying needs of clients and implementing strategies to address client needs.

Objective 2. To encourage all counselors to incorporate wellness into their philosophical orientation, their professional practices, research, and their advocacy for client welfare.

Objective 3. To encourage counselor wellness by identifying the needs of counselors and by selecting, training and retraining counseling students who are committed to personal wellness.

2009 Advocacy Research Priorities

Chi Sigma Iota is committed to advocacy for counselors, the counseling profession, and the clients we serve. We recognize that a pluralistic and multicultural society requires a broad scope of research, and that support for research must be tied to the mission, fundamental purposes, and strategic goals of the Society. In particular, research initiatives of the Society are tied to an on-going agenda for advocacy. Consistent with the six advocacy themes identified through national professional leadership conferences (see csi-net.org, professional advocacy, Counselor Advocacy Leadership Conference Reports), the priorities for 2009 funding are for research relating to chapter, professional association, and practitioner leadership characteristics and behaviors as found, for example, in the *CSI Principles and Practices of Leadership Excellence* (<http://www.csinet.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=79>). These may be exhibited by addressing one or more of the following:

Theme A: Counselor Education

Goal: To insure that all counselor education students graduate with a clear identity and sense of pride as professional counselors.

For example, how does participation in professional organizations including chapters of Chi Sigma Iota contribute to this goal? Are there differences in the degree of commitment or professional identity of those who serve in offices of CSI or other professional organizations? Do those who publish, make presentations, contribute to client advocacy efforts, and serve in leadership in local or other levels exhibit more or different leadership behaviors than others who do not involve themselves in such positions such as are identified in the *CSI Principles and Practices of Leadership Excellence*?

Using, for example, *Principle 3: Preservation of History*: Are those who “lead” also preservers of the traditions and advocates of the unique history and contributions of professional counseling? Is this evident in how they design counseling services in our schools, colleges, agencies, and communities, i.e., developmental, holistic and for persons across the life span?

The CACREP Standards are revised on a systematic basis, is there evidence that they contribute to the preservation of the principles and practices of leadership excellence? Do the standards prepare counselors for a unique role and contribution to organizations and groups that they serve regardless of specialty or setting?

Theme E: Research

Goal: To promote professional counselors and the services that they provide based on scientifically sound research.

Listed below are five objectives designed to help achieve this goal. Any one or a combination of them could be used for research questions.

Objective 1. To demonstrate the effectiveness of counseling through outcome research.

Objective 2. To assess the outcomes of counselor preparation.

Objective 3. To assess public awareness of counseling.

Objective 4. To determine sources of funding for research.

Objective 5. To encourage the use of research.

Because so many professions and occupations use “counseling” as a term to describe what they do, is there a need to differentiate professional counseling from terms such as “talking,” “therapy,” or “advising” especially when describing professional counseling services? Some would argue that there is no real difference among professions with respect to delivery of service. Differences are only noted perhaps by professional degrees, license, course work, or titles.

This begs the question: do philosophical orientation (if any), historical influences, societal occupational development, and values based outcomes not differentiate one provider from another in some manner? (e.g., osteopathic medicine vs. traditional medicine? Psychologists vs. professional counselors? Counseling vs therapy?) Does it matter or are our professional differences principally political and marketplace driven?

On a more client focused agenda, what kinds of counselors are most effective with what kinds of client issues and concerns? Are research outcomes of interest to professional counselors in their work? Do they use outcome based research to inform their practices? Are students in counselor education being prepared to participate if not initiate research within their own practices regardless of settings?

Chi Sigma Iota *Excellence in Counseling Research* Grant Application

Contact Information:

Name(s) of Research Investigator(s) (please list all investigators, if more than one)
Title/Position of Primary/Principal Investigator (PI)
Active CSI Student or Professional Member? (identify CSI membership category for each investigator)
Mailing Address
Telephone E-mail
Date of Application Submission
CSI Home Chapter of PI

For Active CSI Student Member Applicants:

Counseling degree program currently enrolled in:
 Master Specialist Doctorate
Program specialty: School Community Mental Health
 Rehabilitation College Career
 Gerontological Student Development
 Marriage & Family Other (please specify)
Anticipated Graduation date: _____ (month/year)
Please describe PI's research preparation and experience in no more than 50 words.
If PI is a student, please also describe the mentor's training in no more than 50 words.

Chi Sigma Iota *Excellence in Counseling Research* Grant Outline

Description of Research

Title of Research/Investigation

Research Abstract (no more than 50 words, please)

Description of Research (no more than 1,000 words, please):

- Research problem/question (preferably in one sentence)
- Literature review
- Population/participants (with attention given to the intentional inclusion/recruitment of culturally diverse individuals) and how they were/will be recruited
- Instrument(s) used
- Procedure for administration (e.g., setting, role of PI)
- Method(s) for data collection, entry, analysis, and interpretation
- If research has already been conducted, please include noteworthy results and conclusions. Were these results anticipated?

Relevance

- Specifically, *how does this research and its outcomes address the purpose of this year's focus topics of CSI?* How will the research promote the CSI strategic plan and goals? Evidence that the applicant has read the guidelines and existing materials at csi-bet.org is required. Please limit responses to 150 words.

Timeline

- CSI does not fund research that has been completed including any already submitted for publication
- If research has not already been conducted, proposed timeline for research administration/implementation?
- Could you attend and participate in a CSI poster session on this research if awarded the grant?

Itemization of Total Research Expenses

- Please provide itemization (i.e., breakdown) of all research expenses.
- For what specific portion of the research will CSI grant money be used?
- Has other funding for this project been requested and/or obtained? If so, please identify the name of the funding source and the amount requested and/or obtained.

Legal and Ethical Guidelines for Conducting Research

· Has application been made or approval been granted by the primary/principal investigator's institutional review board (IRB) for conducting this research within legal and ethical guidelines? (IRB approval required before CSI funds will be dispensed; please submit a copy of the IRB application or the IRB approval form). If not, will this approval be obtained prior to data collection?

CSI Chapter Faculty Advisor's Endorsement

- Please include a statement from the primary/principal investigator's CSI Chapter Faculty Advisor conveying endorsement of this proposed project. Submit the Faculty Advisor's name, telephone number, and e-mail address.
- Request for exemption from submission of CSI Chapter Faculty Advisor's endorsement (for CSI professional members only). Please provide explanation.