

Dennis Heitzmann

Dennis Heitzmann retired in 2017 after 33 years as senior director of the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, and Special Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs at Penn State University. Prior to his arrival at Penn State, Dennis served as director of the Center for Student Development at the University of Memphis, and director of Counseling Services at Rhodes College in Memphis. He received his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Texas, Austin. His entire career has been spent in university counseling services, supplemented by private practice and organizational consultation. As a licensed psychologist and affiliate professor in the clinical and counseling psychology doctoral programs at Penn State, Dennis has supervised numerous doctoral students in training, and served on doctoral dissertation committees. Dennis is active in professional affairs, having served as president of the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors (AUCCCD), and as president of the International Association for Counseling Services, an international accreditation agency. In addition, he has been an organizational consultant at over 100 universities in the US and internationally, workshop conductor, lecturer and program presenter on various topics including student mental health, students at risk, managed behavioral health care and merged centers. Dennis was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from AUCCCD for his career contributions to counseling center endeavors, and the AUCCCD President's Award in 2016.

As president of AUCCCD, I formed the Elements of Excellence task force, and later, Consulting Directors on Duty, both of which remain today as efforts to stimulate counseling center directors' growth and development. As an AUCCCD emeritus director, my interest in the Director Mentors Initiative follows naturally from my career-long interest in guiding new and continuing directors toward higher levels of performance as administrators in college counseling services. That said, the most enjoyment by far have been those singular moments with another director where information, counsel, and support can be freely offered --- exactly what the Mentors Program is designed to do.....Dennis Heitzmann