



AUCCCD Board Candidate Statement
Submitted by Mark D. Thompson, Ph.D., Colgate University
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I feel honored to be nominated for your consideration as a potential AUCCCD Board member. As so many have previously expressed, AUCCCD is my professional “home.” Since assuming the directorship of Colgate University’s Counseling Center in 1997, AUCCCD has proven to be my most significant source of professional development and support. Every year I anticipate the opportunities to learn from valued colleagues at our national conference. (I have been fortunate enough to attend every AUCCCD conference since starting as a director except Hawaii.) The listserv provides ready access to hundreds of fellow directors wrestling with issues similar to my own. I find our AUCCCD colleagues to be the most generous, capable, and committed professionals one could ever hope to find.

During the past six years, it has been my good fortune to serve on the Elements of Excellence (E of E) committee for AUCCCD, including as co-chair for the past three years. At the Newport conference I will rotate off E of E after completing two terms. This involvement with E of E has undoubtedly been the best professional experience of my career. Serving as a board member would be a meaningful way for me to continue contributing to AUCCCD following my E of E tenure.

Trained as a counseling psychologist, I earned my Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in 1987. Although I have worked in several mental health settings during my career, including an inpatient psychiatric unit, a community mental health center, private practice, and a juvenile detention center, engaging with college students in three university counseling centers during the past 27 years has been the most meaningful for me. Two of those centers were at small rural schools; my current directorship at Colgate (N= 2,900) and, prior to that, 11 years at Hamilton College (N= 1,800). During graduate school, I spent two years at the University of Arizona Counseling Center. Along with AUCCCD, I am a member of APA’s Division 17 (Counseling Psychology) and 51 (Men and Masculinity). I play an active role in our Counseling Centers of New York (CCNY) group.

My spouse/partner is the VP of Student Affairs at another local college, which makes for some interesting dinner conversations. We have two fabulous daughters. In my former life I was an accountant in NYC—go figure!

We find ourselves at a critical time for our organization and the counseling center field. Our organizational dynamics may well be changing given the potentially expanding membership. Budget pressures facing counseling centers make the increased expectations for our role in students of concern committees and behavioral intervention teams a challenge, to say nothing of the trend toward increased use of counseling services by students across the country. Counseling centers work is being recognized as another specialty area within the mental health field. Developing models of service that address all of those concerns can and should be undertaken by mental health professionals with

expertise in these areas—us! If elected, I will listen closely to the needs and perspectives of our expanding membership and work hard to represent your interests at the board level, including those colleagues from smaller(er) schools. It would be an honor to continue serving AUCCCD as a member of the governing board.