

Clarence D. Merckerson, PhD, LPC-S, CRC

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, *Rehabilitation Counseling*, Auburn University, December 2017.

- **Dissertation:** Hiring Manager Stigma Toward Hiring People with Disabilities

Post Master's, *Rehabilitation Leadership and Management Certificate Program*, Auburn University, 2013.

Post Master's, *Online Course Development and Instruction*, Alabama State University, 2015.

Post Master's, *Forensic Interviewing of Children Training*, National Children's Advocacy Center;
Huntsville, AL 2013.

Master of Science, *Rehabilitation Counseling*, Georgia State University, 2006.
Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) scholarship recipient.

Bachelor of Science, *Marketing*, University of Alabama, 2000.
Concentration: *World Business*

PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

January 2018 **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**, Southern University Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

- Program management of Project PEER to develop and implement a culturally-responsive, Human immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Substance Use disorders (SUDs) prevention program for African-American young adults (ages 18-25) in Louisiana through SAMHSA funding.
- Invited to serve as Co-Principal Investigator on the department RSA grant for the final two years of its funding (2018-2019).
- Provide multiculturally competent clinical supervision of graduate interns (both on campus and through distance education) within department. Serve as

classroom instructor and liaison between student interns and their internship site supervisors.

- Monitor program success by developing and measuring Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for accreditation standards. Contribute to the implementation plan to maintain departmental accreditation through CACREP.
- Chair the interview committee for the department in an effort to coordinate graduate student recruitment and admission into rehabilitation counseling program through application review, interview, and approval of incoming students.
- Advise and develop mentorship opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students in an effort to increase retention and graduation rates for students. Provide guidance to students with disabilities regarding their rights and responsibilities under the ADA, Section 504, and any related university policies/procedures.
- Teach didactic rehabilitation courses for undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus and synchronously on-line through the use of digital technology, including formatting lesson plans to accommodate students with disabilities.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Southern University and A&M College Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies; Department of Mental Health Counseling – Baton Rouge, LA

REHB 501 Introduction to Rehabilitation Counseling

REHB 571 Career Development, Job Development, & Job Placement

REHB 520 Family & Group Counseling

REHB 514 Introduction to Psychiatric Vocational Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities

REHB 504 Case Management

REHB 514 DSM-V Psychopathology and Diagnosis Course

REHB 525 Substance Abuse and Mental Health

COUN 502 Ethics in Counseling

REHB 590 Practicum Course

REHB 591/592 Internship Course

REHB 310 Principles of Counseling

REHB 362 Occupational Information & Job Placement

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

- **Licensed Professional Counselor**, *Board of Examiners in Counseling, State of Louisiana, 2018 – Present.*
- **Licensed Professional Counselor – Supervisor**, *Board of Examiners in Counseling, State of Louisiana, 2018 – Present.*
- **Licensed Professional Counselor**, *Board of Examiners in Counseling, State of Alabama, 2011 – Present*

- **Licensed Professional Counselor – Supervisor**, *Board of Examiners in Counseling, State of Alabama*, 2017 – Present
- **Louisiana Blue Cross Blue Shield Provider**, 2019 – Present
- **Alabama Medicaid Provider**, *Alabama Medicaid Agency*, 2012 – 2018
- **Alabama Blue Cross Blue Shield Provider**, 2016 – 2018
- **Managed Health Care Administration Provider/Member**, 2016 – 2018

National Certifications

- **Certified Rehabilitation Counselor**, *Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification*, 2006 – Present

EXTERNAL FUNDING

Grant Awarded: SAMHSA (Grant# SP082109-01) Role: Co-Investigator

Sept 2020 – Sept 2024 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – Subcontract collaboration with University of Iowa. Responsibilities include: develop and implement a culturally-responsive, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) prevention program for African American young adults (ages 18-25) in Louisiana. Project PEER addresses a critical need to provide and scale-up sustainable prevention peer navigation services to African American young adults who are at high risk of developing HIV and/or SUDs. (\$520,171 total for 5 years; 2020-2024)

Goal: To adapt existing evidence-based HIV and SUDs prevention and peer navigation interventions to meet the needs of African American young adults; implement campus- and community-wide HIV and SUDs prevention risk behavior and risk reduction public awareness campaigns; increase testing/screening for HIV and SUDs to prevent transmission, facilitate linkages to care, and enhance treatment as prevention outcomes.

Jan 2018 – Sept 2019 **RSA Grant – Role: Co-Investigator**

Invited to serve as Co-Principal Investigator on Southern University's RSA grant for the final two years of its funding (2018-2019). Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. Rehabilitation Counseling Psychiatric Rehabilitation grant.

Goal: To train students to obtain a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation

Counseling that specializes in the area of Psychiatric Rehabilitation. Particularly with the goal of them becoming employed with Rehabilitation Services Departments throughout the country.

PUBLICATIONS

Dutta, A., Kundu, M., Wu, J. R., Iwanaga, K., Chapin, M., Boen, R., Ruiz, D., Merckerson, C., & Chan, F. (2019). Assessing learning styles of African American college students with disabilities: A factor-analytic approach. *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling*.

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS/PARTICIPATION

21st Annual Social and Behavioral Sciences – Undergraduate Research Conference, Baton Rouge, LA, Fall 2019

National Council on Rehabilitation Education – Conference Session (Co-Presenter): Intimate Relationship Development for People with Disabilities, San Diego, CA, Spring 2019

National Association of African-American Studies – Conference Session: Employer Perceptions Toward Hiring People with Disabilities, Dallas, TX, 2019

National Association of African-American Studies – Poster Session: Employer Perceptions Toward Hiring People with Disabilities, Dallas, TX, 2019

Louisiana Rehabilitation Association – Conference Session: Employer Perceptions Toward Hiring People with Disabilities, Baton Rouge, LA, 2019

AWARDS AND HONORS

Junior Scholar Intensive Training (JSIT) Workshop, Howard University Center on Race and Wealth (CRW) and the Center for Financial Security (CFS) at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2020

Faculty Outstanding Achievement Award, Southern University, 2018

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- Board Member: O'Brien House – Baton Rouge, LA (2020 – Current)
- Member: Baton Rouge Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Committee
- Faculty Advisor (Southern University): Chi Sigma Iota (2020 – Current)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Member (Southern University), Chi Sigma Iota (2006; Current)
- Member, Louisiana Counseling Association (2018 – Current)
- Member, National Rehabilitation Association (2019 – 2020)
- Member, National Association of African-American Studies (2019 – 2020)
- Member, American Counseling Association (2018 – 2019)
- Member, Alabama Counseling Association (2017 – 2018)