Faculty Development Grants for the Assessment of Student Learning/Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
2009

Title:
Procedures for Integrating Ignatian Charisms into Counselor Education Programs

Abstract:
Counselor education programs, through state and national accreditation bodies – Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP), have specifically outlined knowledge and skills required of an individual who intends to become a professional counselor. Expertise in content knowledge is evaluated through by state and national licensing examinations. Skillful practice is demonstrated through formalized field experiences/internship placements and supervision. Yet, the determination of professional dispositions [charisms] that guide and support the development of a caring professional is much more elusive.

The Counselor Education Program at Creighton University is one of seven programs housed within the Education Department. In the Education Department, charisms have been integrated and assessed in the undergraduate programs. However, the attempts to develop intentional and systematic activities, procedures, and assessments at the graduate level have not been forth-coming. It is the intent of these investigators to: 1) select and operationalize charisms that equate to effective counseling practice; 2) develop activities and assessments to integrate throughout the program that offer insight and opportunity for student application regarding the charisms that have been integrated; and 3) develop a program introduction (including an instructional video), with the aid of current student and alumni, that will highlight the importance of charisms to the field of professional counseling.

Investigators:
Debra L. Ponec, Ed.D., NCC
CA112A
402 280 2557
dlponec@creighton.edu
Principal Investigator

C. Timothy Dickel, Ed.D., NCC
CA110-A1
402 280 2233
tdickl@creighton.edu

Jeffrey M. Smith, Ph.D.
CA206
402 280 2413
jefsmith@creighton.edu

Proposal:
This project described meets program, college, and university goals of focusing on our Jesuit Catholic experience. In the Strategic Plan 125, the University outlined its focus on spirituality and integration of Ignatian charisms by offering two objectives: 1) to "implement faith-based programs and policies that promote justice"; and 2) to "foster vibrant Jesuit presence at Creighton" – to formulate a consistent message about Creighton’s Jesuit Catholic identity. The Graduate School outlined a similar goal aimed at the professions for which it educates individuals which states “in accordance with Judeo-Christian tradition and Ignatian values, graduates will demonstrate ethical decision making, service, and civic responsibility.” The Counselor Education program seeks to have its graduates “understand[s] self and others as spiritual beings in the context of the Ignatian charisms.”

Project Design:
Step 1:
The investigators intend to select and operationalize charisms that relate to effective counseling practice. Once the descriptions have been determined, current students and selected alumni will offer feedback on the proposed descriptions of the charisms through an internet survey. From the data gathered, the descriptions of the charisms will then be modified.

Step 2:
The investigators will outline specific objectives for each charism. These objectives will become the foundation for the planning and implementation of intentional, systematic activities and assessments that