

THE CULTURAL NETWORK

From the Desk of the President

Dr. Stacia L. Robertson

Dear NAMRC family and friends:

Spring has Sprung – Finally! As we enter the season that is most identified with renewal, growth, and change, I am reminded of the many changes taking place in the NAMRC organization, in the field of Rehabilitation in general and across the United States. As my Presidential term begins I would like to thank Dr. Chandra M. Donnell for her service as the President of NAMRC and I would like to especially thank her for her continued service as the Immediate Past-President and as one of the co-chairs of the 2009 conference.

Dr. Donnell and the other individuals involved in the conference preparation are busy putting together what looks to be another exciting event. Our 16th Annual Training Conference will be held in Memphis, TN from July 23rd – 26th. This year's theme is *Reinvesting in Persons with Disabilities: Diversity & Change We Can Believe In*. This will be a full conference jam packed with informational sessions, entertainment and opportunities to meet up with other NAMRC members and friends. Information about the conference can be found on our NAMRC website (www.namrc.org) and will also be forwarded to members through email. I look forward to seeing everyone at the conference!

As my NAMRC President term begins I can't help but to reflect on the significance of our national Presidential election. President Obama's diverse background, his commitment to diversity, social justice and the inclusion of persons with disabilities marks a drastic change from politics as usual. Within President Obama's first two

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weeks of office he proposed an economic stimulus plan that included \$500 million dollars for Vocational Rehabilitation, he passed a bill for pay equity based on gender, and reauthorized The Children's Health Insurance Program. The climate in Washington has definitely changed.

Similar to President Obama I believe that change is a group process; change is not brought about by one individual or one small subset of an organization. We need the help of the NAMRC membership to reach our goals. Each member has unique talents that we encourage you to use in the service of the organization. I encourage you to become involved, attend the conference, volunteer for a committee, develop or get in involved with your state NAMRC chapter, and invite a friend, colleague or family member to join our ranks. I believe that to truly make a difference we need to build a strong coalition. Together we not only can enhance the NAMRC organization but we can enhance rehabilitation services and continue to move our mission forward.

Sincerely,
Stacia

2009 Board Update

The NAMRC Board of Directors would like to welcome our newest board members, LaKeisha Harris & Ameena Mu'min.

We would also like to thank Brenda Cartwright, R. F. Truesdell & Roy Chen whose terms expired this year. We are grateful for your service to the organization and look forward to continuing to work with you in a different capacity.

2009 16th Annual Conference Update!!!

**Reinvesting in Persons with Disabilities:
Diversity & Change We Can Believe In**



July 23 - 26, 2009
The Marriott Memphis Downtown
250 North Main Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38103
(901) 527-7300
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mdt-memphis-marriott-downtown/>

Conference Chairs:

Chandra M. Donnell, Ph.D., CRC
Tyra A. Watts, Ph.D., CRC

Program Co-Chairs:

Phillip D. Lewis, Ph.D., CRC
Steve Zaskas, Ph.D., CRC

The 2008 NAMRC Preconference at St. Louis, MO

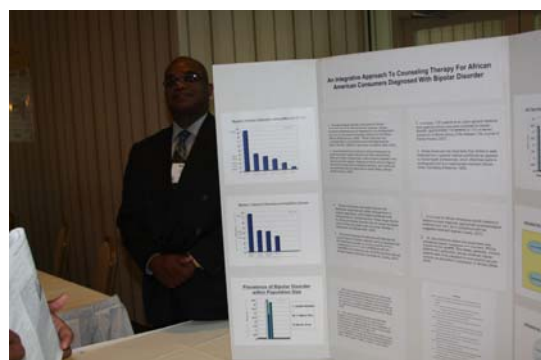
The NAMRC conference in conjunction with NRA, served as our first preconference. The smaller format allowed for a condensed version of the NAMRC conference - packed with the socialization and information available at the full conference. We were able to exceed our expectations!



Preconference Concurrent Session 2008



Preconference Networking 2008



Preconference Poster Presentation 2008

Conference photo CDs are now for sale. Order forms are available on the website (NAMRC.ORG). Proceeds go to the NAMRC Scholarship fund.



*Check out NAMRC's
New Web Site!*

We are continuing to expand our NAMRC website! Go to www.NAMRC.ORG for enhanced, user-friendly access to information, useful updates and important news and issues relevant to multicultural persons in the rehabilitation community. **All 2009 Annual Training Conference information is now available on the web!**

The Cultural Network Newsletter will also be featured on our new website at www.NAMRC.org/newsletters.htm. Electronic delivery allows for broader distribution of news relevant to the NAMRC community.

The Cultural Network Newsletter belongs to the NAMRC membership. Are there specific topics you would like to see discussed in future newsletters? If so, please submit your comments and/or ideas to our newsletter editor Dion Porter at dion.porter@jsums.edu.

NAMRC Mission Statement

NAMRC is a diverse group whose purpose is to advocate for the rehabilitation needs of multicultural persons with disabilities and equitable services; and enhance the development of multicultural rehabilitation professionals.



Pre-conference Poster Presentation 2008



Awards Dinner at NRA conference 2008

2009 – 2010 NAMRC Officers and Board of Directors

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The National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC) publishes this newsletter.

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Submissions to the *Cultural Network Newsletter* should be in MS Word or .rtf format. Submissions should be made via e-mail to the Newsletter Editor Dr. Dion Porter at dion.porter@jsums.edu.

Photos should be submitted as JPEG files. Contact information should be included with your submission. Please note that submissions may be edited for length.

The *Cultural Network* Newsletter is published 4 times a year with a special Election issue in December. Remaining Submission deadlines for 2009 are:

April 1	March/April/May Issue
July 1	June/July/August Issue
Oct 1	Sept/Oct/November Issue
Nov 15	December – Election Issue