Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic and Professional Honor Society International (CSI) and CACREP have a strong history of mutual support and cooperation. The Society’s membership and leadership have specifically included in the CSI Bylaws a requirement that counselor education programs must be CACREP-accredited to be approved to charter a new CSI chapter or reactivate a chapter. In the CACREP Directory of Programs, the CSI logo is displayed on the “Detail” page of CACREP-accredited counselor education programs that have an active CSI chapter. We look forward to seeing the CSI logo appear in the CACREP Directory of Programs more and more as CSI continues to grow. This year, CSI marked a record, having chartered more than 400 chapters in counselor education programs since the Society was established in 1985. Additionally, 120,000+ initiated CSI members continue to welcome 7,000+ new members on average every year. The Society’s members reflect the fact that CSI is not just a student organization. In fact, the majority of CSI members (72,000+) identify as Professional Counselor members of CSI!

2017-18 CSI and CACREP Leadership Essay Contest

As an outgrowth of the strong relationship between CSI and CACREP, the two organizations have co-sponsored the CSI and CACREP Leadership Essay Contest for the past four years. The purpose of the Leadership Essay Contest is to enhance the counseling profession through recognizing excellence in our field. Active CSI members may submit essays in either the Entry-Level Students Category or the Doctoral Students/Professional Counselors/Counselor Educators Category in response to prompts constructed by the leadership of CSI and CACREP, respectively. Award recipients in each category receive:

First place: $500; publication of the essay in the CSI Exemplar, the CACREP Connection newsletter, and at csi-net.org and cacrep.org; a one year membership renewal in CSI.

Second place: $200; publication of the essay at csi-net.org; a one-year membership renewal in CSI.

Third place: $100; publication of the essay at csi-net.org; a one-year membership renewal in CSI.

For the 2017-18 CSI and CACREP Leadership Essay Contest, writers were invited to respond to the following prompt:
How can counseling students be prepared to serve with excellence in a dynamic, diverse, and complex international society?

Participants also were encouraged to address the following questions in their essays:

How can counselors support the evolution of the counseling profession in different cultures around the world, while also being respectful of unique contributions other cultures can make to the profession?

How can counseling students engage with policymakers and/or make small steps in their local communities so that mental health care will be inclusive of the needs of diverse citizens?

In what ways can counselors develop multicultural competence for working with an increasingly diverse and global population of clients (e.g., immigrants and refugees)?

CSI and CACREP are pleased to announce the 2017-18 Leadership Essay Contest recipients, their CSI chapter affiliations, and the titles of their essays.

Award recipients in the Entry-Level Students Category are:

First Place
Serena Yeager - “Serving with Excellence in a Complex Society”
Upsilon Chi Chapter, University of Central Florida

Second Place
Randy Curth - “Diversity: Leadership in Compassion”
Lambda Iota Beta Chapter, Long Island University

Third Place
Alicia Means - “Serving with Excellence Through Unity”
Xi Chapter, Western Illinois University

Award recipients in the Doctoral Students/Professional Counselors/Counselor Educators Category are:

First Place
Daniel Balva - “Serving with Excellence in a Dynamic, Diverse, and Complex International Society”
Delta Iota Chapter, Florida International University

Second Place
Everett Painter - “Contact with Difference: A Personal Imperative”
Epsilon Chi, Edinboro University
Third Place
Lisa Dunkley - “Serve with Excellence in a Diverse International Society”
Rho Zeta Chapter, University of Kentucky

You can read the first place recipients’ essays below. Visit the CSI website to read the essays for all of the first, second and third place recipients of the CSI and CACREP Leadership Essay Contest this year, as well as prior years. While there, be sure to read more about the CSI and CACREP Leadership Essay Contest.

CSI appreciates the opportunity to work with CACREP on this meaningful contest, furthering both CSI’s mission, to promote excellence in counseling, and CACREP’s mission, to promote the professional competence of counseling.