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“I have lived/visited many places and many places live with in me.”

Currently, I am the director of Furman University Counseling Center. Prior to joining Furman, I was the director at UTSA. My early college development years included UPR, Ball State, Notre Dame, Michigan State, University of Florida, New Mexico State, University of Michigan, and UTSA. Too many to name, but I have had great mentors along the way. Many of these are still “giving” as Emeritus.

As a result, I have over 25 years of experience as a psychologist and 18 as a counseling center director. I have served in small-large, and private-public institutions of higher education. I have been a member of AUCCCD for 18 years. I have been a member of IACS for 16 years, served on the Accreditation Board, and currently serve as a Senior Field visitor. I have had the distinguished pleasure to visit, evaluate, and consult on many campuses across the country, including Puerto Rico. This has given me the opportunity to see at close range the challenges and the strengths of many of our counseling centers. Throughout the years, I have presented in our conference in variety of topics, most recently on the use the Stepped Care model for small and large counseling centers.’ This year, please join Vivian Barnette and me in the Counseling Centers’ Using Stepped Care Affinity Group.

During all this time, I have had the opportunity to travel and join my fellow counseling center directors at our annual conference. I have always looked forward to our national conferences, fusing work and play, and then returning to my home campus with renewed energies and ideas to devote to the work of supporting college student mental health. More importantly, these experiences have taught me how to run, skip, and dance while sometimes blindfolded in managing a college counseling center. There is still much to learn, and I am still dancing (“salsa”) through my journey.

We have been dealing with rising college students’ mental health demands, counseling centers high visibility, and shrinking budgets for more than a decade. We are still recovering from the COVID-19 epidemic, increased race, equity, and inclusion concerns exist across our country, and extreme political divisions. This impacts us all and our students are feeling it and calling for help. AUCCCD must be a unifying force and presence in taking on these challenges. More than

ever, as an AUCCCD member, I feel it is my duty to give back and, if chosen, serve as a member of the AUCCCD board. My hope is that I can continue to support the growth of AUCCCD by offering a diverse, yet unifying voice, and help direct the organization through these challenging times. Together, our organization can be a model for equity, justice and inclusion. See you in Philly, in-person or in-spirit.