



Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development

A division of the American Counseling Association

www.amcdaca.org

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2007-08

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David Kaplan, Ph. D.
Chief Professional Officer
American Counseling Association
5999 Stevenson Ave
Alexandria, VA 22304

Dear Dr. Kaplan:

Most recently, a counseling colleague at Teachers College of Columbia University, Dr. Madonna Constantine, was subjected to an act of terrorism when someone placed a noose on her office door. While some may view this as an isolated act of an extremist, a mentally impaired individual, or a disgruntled student, others have more accurately assessed this incident as one of a string of racially charged acts of aggression and intimidation against socio-politically vulnerable individuals.

Teaching in content areas that challenge long-held beliefs about White privilege, educational hegemony, bias, and discrimination against people of color and other socially marginalized individuals and communities places faculty in precarious positions. Needless to say, many of us who teach multicultural, diversity, and social justice courses are afraid to teach these subjects, conduct research, and write in our topic areas.

As the multicultural association that brought out the multicultural counseling competencies in 1992 and its updates in 1996 and 2003, we give voice against intimidating acts within our own counseling profession and within our teaching and training environments. AMCD has steadfastly been at the forefront, addressing issues of injustice since its inception; let us remain proactive in our efforts.

Over the next few weeks, the AMCD executive council will be discussing what concrete actions can be taken, both short-term and long-term, that can aid in: (a) decreasing the number and intensity of hate-crime incidents nationally and (b) ameliorating the effects of systemic oppression on socially marginalized individuals and communities.

We hope that, in your role at ACA, you will consider how discussion among the membership about this professional development concern within ACA can increase clinical efficacy. Please feel free to contact me as a resource for our collective organization.

Sincerely,

Cirecie West-Olatunji, Ph. D.
AMCD President

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c/o Dr. «GreetingLine», President

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