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2008-10-24 PCA Graduate Student Leader Initiative Letter

Pennsylvania Counseling Association

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On behalf of the Pennsylvania Counseling Association, I would like to extend my congratulations to you on being selected to participate in the 2008-2009 Graduate Student Leadership Initiative. This initiative is intended to provide the opportunity for students in master-level counseling programs to become exposed to PCA leadership and governance.

Your term as a Graduate Student Leader will begin on September 1, 2008 and will extend for 1 year. During this time you will be assigned a PCA leader as a mentor. Suggested mentoring activities include, but are not limited to

- Review current PCA Bylaws
- Review current ACA Code of Ethics
- An introduction to the structure and interaction of PCA and ACA
- An introduction to the roles and responsibilities of each PCA officer and selected committee chairs

Student Leader activities include

- Participate at the annual conference as a student worker
- Present a Graduate Student discussion group at annual conference
- Attend PCA Council meetings
- Participate in a PCA or Divisional/Chapter initiative of choice
- Participate in the PCA budget development as an observer
- Attend the annual strategic planning meeting
- Interact with PCA officers and selected committee chairs

Benefits of each Student Leader include

- One year of PCA membership
- One conference registration fee reduction or waiver (student worker)
- Reduction of room/board costs for one conference attendance
- Certificate of Completion of Leadership Training Program
- Recognition at Annual Conference

This initiative is totally funded by contributions from the PCA membership attending the annual conference and is not part of the PCA budget. Efforts are made to substantially reduce the costs associated with conference attendance and transportation costs to the PCA Council meetings. Shared rooms at the conference and carpooling are some ways these costs are reduced.

I hope you enjoy this experience.

Paul L. West, Ed.D., LPC, NCC
PCA Past-President 2007-08
Graduate Student Leadership Initiative Coordinator

Scott Gaskins

ScottGaskins@verizon.net