

Preface

VISTAS 2006 will continue to contribute to the building of a user-driven American Counseling Association (ACA)-sponsored database of counseling resources that capture the best ideas and practices of ACA members. This database will also draw from the resources that were developed by the ERIC Counseling and Student Services Clearinghouse (ERIC/CASS) as a subset of the ERIC database.

As with all innovative endeavors, *VISTAS* has experienced growing pains. Nevertheless, an exciting new collection of articles has been produced featuring compelling ideas and practices that have grown out of ACA program proposals submitted by members. It should be noted that, as such, many of these articles are not written in an academic, professional journal style. In preparing the articles for publication, *VISTAS* editors were instructed to correct grammatical and typographical errors and to reword sections when necessary to clarify what the authors are trying to communicate. But they were also instructed to preserve the idiom and style of each writer as much as possible so that readers can better understand the perspective – and yes, the passion – of the individual presenter/author.

In addition to the articles selected from program presenter submissions, *VISTAS* includes a section of special invited articles prepared by current ACA leaders.

The members of both of these groups deserve great credit for taking the time to share their ideas and resources. For convention participants who attend the sessions presented by the authors, *VISTAS* can enhance their understanding of the content of the sessions. For those unable to attend, *VISTAS* can provide an awareness of important current and emerging issues in counseling. For both groups *VISTAS* will prove to be a highly useful reference long after the convention is over.

A major new innovation for *VISTAS 2006* is that, in addition to the articles selected for this print version, *all* submitted *VISTAS* articles that meet the guidelines will be included in the ACA *VISTAS* online database. When combined with entries from *VISTAS 2004* and *VISTAS 2005*, the *VISTAS* database will constitute a dynamic, comprehensive, and easily retrievable source of counseling resources—the first of its kind for any professional association.

We have learned greatly from our experiences in developing *VISTAS*. It has been rewarding to us and, we believe, highly useful to counselors. Most importantly, its strength has come from the ideas and experiences that counselors have shared.

Our best to you all—contributors and readers.

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