

Editor's Preface

Counseling is a developing discipline and as such we who claim professional identities as counselors must be informed consumers of the research and findings that give shape to our profession as well as become effective contributors to that knowledge base. While no single text will make one an expert in research methodology *Research Methods for Counselors*, by Robert J. Wright, Ph.D. provides the essential foundation for just such practice.

This text, as you will soon come to experience, provides not only a comprehensive analyses of the nature, the need and the value of research methodology for counselors but does so in a way that actively engages you , as reader and fosters your development as a Counselor and practitioner-researcher. *Research Methods for Counselors* is unique among similar text in that it is an essential part of Sage Publication's series for counselor, entitled: *Counseling and Professional Identity in the 21st Century*. Collectively the books in this series provide readers with the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary to become a professional counselor.

Counseling and Professional Identity in the 21st Century is a new-fresh – pedagogically sound series of texts targeting counselors in training. This series is NOT simply a compilation of isolated books matching that which is already in the market. Rather each book, with its targeted knowledge and skills, will be presented as but a part of a larger whole. The focus and content of each text serves as a single lens through which a counselor can view his/her clients, engage in his/her practice and articulate his/her own professional identity.

Counseling and Professional Identity in the 21st Century is unique not just in the fact that it 'packaged' a series of traditional text, but that it provides an *integrated* curriculum targeting the formation of the readers' professional identity and efficient, ethical practice. Each book, within the series, is structured to facilitate the ongoing professional formation of the reader. The materials found within each text are organized in order to move the reader to higher levels of cognitive, affective and psychomotor functioning, resulting in his/her assimilation of the materials presented into both his/her professional identity and approach to professional practice. While each text targets a specific set of core competencies (cognates and skills), competencies identified by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) as essential to the practice of counseling (see inside front cover), each book in the series will emphasize each of the following:

- a. the assimilation of concepts and constructs provided across the text found within the series thus fostering the reader's ongoing development as a competent professional;
- b. the blending of contemporary theory with current research and empirical support;

- c. a focus on the development of procedural knowledge with each text employing case illustrations and guided practice exercises to facilitate the readers ability to translate the theory and research discussed into professional decision making and application;
- d. the emphasis on the need for and means of demonstrating accountability, and;
- e. the fostering of the reader's Professional Identity and with it the assimilation of the ethics and standards of practice guiding the Counseling Profession.

We are proud to have served as co-editors of this series feeling sure that each will serve as a significant resource to you and your development as a professional counselor.

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