



2016 Maryland Counseling Association ***Emerging Leaders Program***

The Maryland Counseling Association (MCA) is pleased to announce the 2016 Emerging Leaders Program. In an effort to demonstrate a continued commitment to the leadership and professional development of MCA members, along with the advancement of our state association and the counseling profession as a whole, the MCA is seeking to award graduate counseling students (master's or doctoral), new professionals (one year post graduation), **AND** experienced professionals as 2016 Emerging Leaders. The Emerging Leaders Program will select up to three individuals per year, in any category, to be Emerging Leaders. The purpose of the program is to provide participants with cultivating experiences that support leadership skills, competency development, and diverse opportunities to actively participate in MCA's Executive Board meetings, serve on a committee or task force, engage in projects of interest, receive mentorship, build professional networks, and gain exposure to the responsibilities associated with fulfilling elected leadership positions.

Emerging Leader award recipients will be selected to partake in 50 hours of service to MCA during the 2016 calendar year (January, 2016-December, 2016). A list of required service activities are listed below, all of which will be included towards the total hour requirement. All recipients (students, new professionals and experienced professionals) must be current members of MCA at the time of their application submission. Graduate status (i.e., master or doctoral) should be based on student status as of January 1, 2016. New professionals must have graduated within the previous calendar year (2015) to apply as new professionals. Any individual who is one full calendar year post graduation may apply as an experienced professional. Emerging Leaders will receive a free conference registration to the 2016 Maryland Counseling Association Annual Conference and be recognized at the MCA Conference as an Emerging Leader. Recipients will be recognized on MCA's website and featured in the MCA newsletter *Compass Points*.

Applicants are sought who have exhibited exceptional leadership potential and hold a willingness to serve MCA in a variety of roles for the betterment of the counseling profession.

Applications are to be submitted the MCA Executive Board (comprised of the President, President-elect, Past-President, Executive Director, Treasurer, Secretary, and a member-at-large). The Executive Board will review all applications and select the Emerging Leaders. The deadline for receiving applications is March 15, 2016. Award recipients will be notified by March 30, 2016. If you need additional information, please contact Dr. Stephanie F. Dailey, MCA President at: president@mdcounseling.org

Important Dates and Timeline:

March 15, 2016: Applications Due (all required materials must be received by this date)

March 16, 2016: Selection Committee begins Reviews

March 30, 2016: Emerging Leaders identified and notified

Program Overview

The MCA Emerging Leaders Program offers outstanding MCA graduate students and professional members (new and experienced) an opportunity to broaden their awareness and leadership potential in the counseling profession. MCA created this program to assist future leaders in developing skills and competencies that can advance the counseling profession and the consumers of counseling services. Applicants who have demonstrated a willingness and capacity to provide leadership are sought. MCA is committed to investing in Emerging Leaders who will endure and prosper in their service to the profession and counseling consumers.

The MCA Emerging Leaders program is designed to expose emerging MCA leaders to new and stimulating ideas by providing them with an opportunity to be of service to both MCA and the counseling profession. MCA's Emerging Leaders will attend MCA Executive Board meetings and choose projects of interest for their participation and leadership development. The Emerging Leader positions are non-paid, part-time volunteer professional service positions. MCA's Emerging Leaders will be assigned an MCA mentor, and will communicate with their assigned mentor (e.g., MCA President, Committee Chair) primarily by email and telephone. There is no stipend associated with the position.

The MCA Emerging Leaders Program is intended to provide participants with opportunities to:

- Develop their leadership skills
- Learn about the governance structure of MCA
- Become acquainted with significant individuals and groups involved in MCA's activities and the counseling profession
- Complete special projects on behalf of MCA
- Develop personally and professionally as an Emerging Leader in the counseling profession
- Broaden their professional network through service to MCA

MCA Emerging Leader Activities

Emerging Leaders are required to participate in the following MCA activities during the 2016 calendar year:

- Volunteer at the MCA conference (including registration table)
- Volunteer at one MCA continuing education workshop
- Attend all MCA Board Meeting (held monthly)
- Attend MCA social events

- Attend MCA Leadership Retreat
- Provide any additional service required during the annual conference, continuing education workshops, social events, or board meetings

In addition, the activities of **Emerging Leaders** will include as a minimum, but not be limited to:

- Providing a minimum of 50 hours of service on an MCA committee or task force during the 2016 leadership year (January, 2016 – December, 2016).
- Provide a written project(s) outcome summary (1-2 pages) including an account of a minimum of 50 hours in active service to MCA. The outcome summary should be submitted to the MCA President two weeks prior to December 31, 2016.

Criteria for Selection as an MCA Emerging Leaders

All nominees for MCA Emerging Leaders positions must meet the following prerequisites:

- Be a current MCA member
- Complete an application and submit all required materials by the due date designed above (see timeline)
- **Student Applicants:** Be enrolled in a graduate counseling program (master's or doctoral)
- **New Professional Applicants:** Have graduated from a counseling program no earlier than 2015
- **Experienced Professional Applicants:** Have graduated from a counseling program prior to 2015 and have worked in the counseling profession. Licensure not required.

Emerging Leader applications will be evaluated and selected based on the following additional criteria:

- Two letters of recommendation describing their leadership skills and experiences, and why they should be selected as an Emerging Leader
- Enthusiasm for and an ability to carry out the **Emerging Leaders** experience as indicated by the nominee's goals statement and letters of recommendation
- Willingness to commit a minimum of 50 hours of service to a MCA committee, project, or task force during the 2016 year
- Leadership potential as indicated by the goals statement and recommendation letters
- Ability and willingness to attend MCA events, volunteer at the annual conference and at least one continuing education workshop, and participate in all MCA events as outlined above under *MCA Emerging Leader Activities*.

Additional Note: The Executive Board will be involved in voting for the Emerging Leaders. Therefore, members of the Executive Board are not eligible to apply for an Emerging Leader position or submit a letter of recommendation for applicants.