



## Investing in graduate students and counseling's future

*I believe that children are our future  
Teach them well and let them lead the way*

The opening lines of Whitney Houston's classic song "Greatest Love of All" are an inspiring call to all those who have the responsibility of educating the next generation. In many respects, these lines have guided my work as a counselor educator for 30 years.

In that time, I have taught and mentored hundreds of master's counseling students and directed the dissertations of a number of counselor education doctoral students. I am pleased that many of my former students have distinguished themselves as counselors and counselor educators throughout the country. Also, I am very proud of the fact that two students I have taught went on to become president of the American Counseling Association. Many of my former students are leading the way in educational institutions and agencies throughout the country.

As professional counselors, we are also stewards of the profession, which involves supporting and nurturing our graduate students. They truly are the future of the profession. That is why I invite you to support graduate students by contributing to the ACA Foundation. Support of graduate students is a major focus of the Foundation as it seeks to advance the counseling profession. Your contribution will aid in supporting students in graduate counseling programs in a number of valuable ways.

One very significant way is through helping underwrite graduate student scholarships to the ACA Conference. Such support allows students to have a professional experience at the national level, which often includes attending content sessions conducted by the authors of their textbooks. Imagine students' excitement at being able to meet and interact with many of the professions' leading scholars. Students' graduate studies and subsequent careers are greatly enhanced by such experiences.

Contributions to the ACA Foundation also help support the annual Graduate Student Essay Competition, which the Foundation sponsors. This contest, being held this year in conjunction with the Ross Trust Scholarship Competition, not only allows graduate students to voice their opinions in essay format on important issues facing the counseling profession but also offers substantial awards for the top essays. This year's winners for both the ACA Foundation Graduate Student Essay Competition and the Ross Trust Scholarship Competition will each receive a \$2,500 scholarship grant, have their essays published in *Counseling Today* and get free registration, plus three nights at a conference hotel, for the 2010 ACA Annual Conference & Exposition in Pittsburgh. Eight runners-up will receive \$500 grants, publication of their essays in *Counseling Today* and free conference registrations. Imagine graduate students being able to put such a distinction on their résumés.

Another way your Foundation donations support graduate counseling students is through the Glen Hubele National Graduate Student Award. This annual award recognizes outstanding scholarship by an ACA student member. It's an honor that can boost a master's student's chances of being accepted into a prestigious doctoral program or help a doctoral student obtain his or her first faculty position as a counselor educator.

When you make a donation to the ACA Foundation in support of graduate students, you are making an investment in the future of the counseling profession. You are helping to ensure that excellence in counseling practice, education and research will continue into the next generation. Whether actively involved in the teaching of students or not, we are all educators as counselors, and we owe support to those who will come after us. The ACA Foundation believes that students are our future, and we want to support them well and help them lead the way. Please visit the donation page at the ACA Foundation website ([acafoundation.org](http://acafoundation.org)) and lend your support today. ♦

Courtland C. Lee is the immediate past chair of the ACA Foundation.

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