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**NCDA RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT**

**March 15, 2024**

Chair

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**Committee/Council Activities to Date**

We had our first meeting on January 1, 2024, where we heard from our board liaison as to the key purpose for our committee, as well as how the board could be supportive of our efforts. We also identified several areas of research interest for focus for continued discussion, including innovative teaching/tech; holistic career/personal wellbeing; equity, inclusivity, diversity; evidence-based practice; bridging theory to practice; developmental issues being faced by workers- retirement/unable to retire/retirement to re-hirement/ageism, but also emerging adults and their needs. We suggested a new strategy for membership involvement in committees in terms of recognition (e.g., LinkedIn badge, letter of recognition, etc.), which might indirectly impact NCDA membership (increased involvement = increased likelihood of continued membership).

Since that meeting, members have completed surveys of their interests and discussion groups are being formed. In addition, we are in the process of evaluating two student applications for an NCDA award and will be reviewing a request to use NCDA membership for a research study. The final groups (based on sign up) were technology, master’s career counseling course/program, retirement/rehirement, marketing of research/making it more palatable to members, efficacy of career interventions, and a specialty group of graduate students on our committee. The hope for these groups is to provide a collegial space for conversations about these areas, through the lens of research and practice. Beyond this, we anticipate the identification of specific strategies and recommendations coming from these groups, which include recommended webinars, calls for research proposals, presentation proposals, white papers, a list of best practices, and so forth.

Although we are just getting started, we believe we are contributing to the goals set for by the NCDA board per the strategic plan:

* **Goal 1: DEI.** It is expected that in our group discussions, DEI issues will be included as part of the conversation and outputs, as this was a value expressed by members-but more specifically on how DEI relates to the topic areas selected.
* **Goal 2: Membership.** Our hope is that by providing a specialized space within our research committee for colleagues with similar interests to talk and brainstorm, that the value of membership for these individuals will be increased. Also, through our subgroups and recommendations, we hope that NCDA members will see how the impact of research informing practice, and that having access to this information in various forms will be an important reason for joining and remaining an NCDA member.
* **Goal 3: Professional Identity**. Members in our committee clearly identify as researchers, or among those who value research. Being able to join with others who have career development and vocational psychology as a focus AND who value quality research relevant to these topics supports our professional identity. In addition, as our groups identify specific strategies and recommendations, we hope that our efforts will have a positive impact on the professional identity of our members, in that their confidence of being in a research-based and driven profession will be enhanced.

**Projected Plan/Work Completed through September 30.**

* Subgroups based on committee interests will have met with strategies identified and recommendations made.
* Graduate student research award will be determined.
* We will suggest changes to the rubric for evaluating these awards.
* Feedback will be given on all research proposals received.
* We will identify the CDQ article research award.