

## First Annual National Counseling Conference in Bhutan

The first annual National Counseling Conference in Bhutan, organized by NBCC International (NBCC-I), took place in Thimphu February 7-8, 2011, in collaboration with RENEW (Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women), a women's counseling agency; the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Health; and the Royal University of Bhutan.



*Bhutan, a small country in Asia, is on its way to developing nationwide counseling services for a variety of issues.*

On the first day of the conference, the globalization of counseling and counselor education was emphasized, and the day ended with a panel discussion concerning counseling initiatives in Bhutan. On day two, three tracks, including mental health counseling, school counseling and youth counseling, were offered in workshop formats. Topics included assessing and addressing family violence, counseling students with special needs and career development for teens. All topics for the conference were selected by Bhutan's counselors to meet locally specified training needs.

The second day of the conference ended with the initial meeting of Bhutan's counselors for the purpose of developing an organization to promote counseling in Bhutan. Representatives from several agencies attended and NBCC-I moderated the meeting.

During the conference, NBCC Bhutan was officially opened as a national office of NBCC-I by Her Majesty Queen Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck. Upon request, NBCC-I collaborates with colleagues in other countries to open a national office. The office serves as a local presence to facilitate the development of the counseling profession in that country or region and is staffed by local professionals knowledgeable in the development of counseling within that country. NBCC Bhutan will be advancing initiatives concerning counselor education and training, as well as Bhutan's Mental Health Facilitator program.

"The conference was a tremendous success, with literally every counselor in Bhutan in attendance," reports NBCC-I's Dr. Wendi Schweiger, a member of the conference committee. She adds, "Bhutan, a small country in Asia, is well on its way to developing nationwide counseling services for a variety of issues and concerns, including specialized services for women, children and young adults."

## Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) Update

The Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) program continues to expand mental health service capacity in areas with underserved populations. As part of this growth, additional master trainers have been trained in the recent months. The following is a list of the most recent trainings and our newest registered master trainers.

- A master training was held in Thimphu, Bhutan, in February 2011, in partnership with Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women (RENEW). This is the second master training offered abroad. NBCC-I is pleased to welcome the 10 participants who were trained and registered as master trainers: Ms. Bokhu, Ms. Kesang Dhendup Choden, Ms. Tshering Dolkar, Ms. Dolma, Ms. Ambika Neopaney, Ms. Yeshey Om, Ms. Sonam Pelden, Ms. Tashi Pelzom, Dr. Meenakshi Rai and Ms. Dechen Wangmo. Dr. Scott Hinkle trained these new master trainers.
- A fourth master training was held at NBCC headquarters in April 2011. NBCC-I is pleased to welcome the nine participants who were trained and registered as master trainers: Dr. Dibya Choudhuri, Dr. Jean-Claude Dutès, Ms. Beth Fier, Mr. Kevin Gallagher, Dr. Troyann Gentile, Ms. Pamela Harrod, Dr. Clement Marcantonio, Dr. Laura Schmuldt and Dr. Joseph Wehrman. Dr. Scott Hinkle and Dr. Donna Henderson conducted the training.

A fifth master training will be conducted at NBCC headquarters in July. All available slots for this training have been filled.

We look forward to additional partnerships and training opportunities during the coming years.

**The Counselling Association of Nigeria (CASSON) announces the 2011 International Counselling Conference**  
*Professionalism Challenges in Contemporary Counselling Practice In Africa*

■ ■ **September 6-7, 2011**

■ ■ **Kano City, Nigeria**

For more information, refer to CASSON'S Web site at [www.cassonnigeria.org](http://www.cassonnigeria.org).

## International Counseling Encounter, Cuba 2011



The International Counseling Encounter, Cuba 2011, was celebrated in Havana April 26-27, 2011. In attendance were counselors, psychologists and related mental health professionals, educators and students. Representatives from Argentina, Mexico, the United States and Venezuela also participated in the encounter. The first of its kind, the Cuban Psychology Society organized the event and it was sponsored by

the Cuban Society for Health Psychology and the Educational and Professional Counseling Department of the Teachers Association of Cuba.

The purpose of the International Counseling Encounter was to promote a discussion about counseling and assess its progress in Cuba and in other countries in the Americas. The event was the first of its kind to organize professionals interested in counseling in Cuba. The enthusiastic audience had the opportunity to learn from different presenters on topics such as counseling and community action; professional, vocational and educational counseling; quality in the practice of counseling; counseling and its application in clinical and health work; and teaching and training counselors. Board members and staff from NBCC and NBCC International were invited to participate in panel discussions on the current profile of the counseling profession in the United States, the importance of counselor certification, and the value of supervision in the quality of counseling practice and counseling training in the United States.

Counseling— or “*orientación psicológica*” as it’s known in Cuba—is a new mental health concept in this country of approximately 11.5 million people. One of the professionals in charge of organizing the encounter, Omar García Miranda, stated that “the encounter helped as a balance to appraise the theoretic-methodological development and praxis of the counseling. It stated the challenges for the improvement of the discipline in our country.” NBCC International looks forward to continuing to learn about counseling as it develops in this country.



The Federación de Asociaciones Venezolana de Orientadores (FAVO) announces the

### VII Counseling Congress of the Americas and VIII Venezuelan Interdisciplinary Counseling Congress

Themed Versatility in Counseling:  
Well-being, Inclusion, Equity and Social Justice

**November 30 –December 3, 2011**  
**Maracaibo, Venezuela**

For more information, see the conference brochure on [www.nbccinternational.org](http://www.nbccinternational.org), or e-mail FAVO at [favocongresodelasamericas2011@hotmail.com](mailto:favocongresodelasamericas2011@hotmail.com).

The Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE) offers several credentials that can help counselors carve out new niche practices. Recently, we have seen tremendous growth in professional coaching, career development, human services and distance counseling.

The new **Board Certified Coach (BCC)**



credential is ideal for NCCs who have completed 30 hours of coaching education and wish to establish their identity as a professional coach. Visit [www.cce-global.org/BCC](http://www.cce-global.org/BCC) for more information on how you can become a BCC during the inaugural period as part of our norming population. After the inaugural period ends December 31, 2011, applicants will be required to meet additional educational requirements and pass the BCC examination. Please visit our Web site for complete details.



In response to the high level of unemployment—

both in the United States and internationally—there has been a sharp rise in the number of counselors obtaining the **Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF)** credential to aid their clients in finding new jobs. The total number of GCDFs is nearly 20,000, and that number continues to climb. This career credential is a global credential, with certification offered in more than 15 countries, including the U.S.

CCE has the credentials that can help you stand out in your particular market—whether you work in counseling, the correctional system, human services, career development, supervision, distance counseling, or in another helping profession. Visit [www.cce-global.org/prof/credentials](http://www.cce-global.org/prof/credentials) to learn more about the credentials that could benefit you.