

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.



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