**Denise Takakjy**

My name is Denise Takakjy, and I am a licensed professional counselor in Pennsylvania. I hold a master’s degree in clinical mental health counseling from Walden University and am currently completing my doctorate in counselor education and supervision from Walden University. I am a private practice practitioner specializing in working with high-risk teens working through a trauma lens. I have experience working in community mental health services, residential treatment, and home and school-based settings. I am also an associate faculty member in the clinical mental health counseling program at University of Phoenix and an adjunct faculty member in the undergraduate program in behavioral health at Grand Canyon University. I also provide clinical supervision for LPC licensure. I currently serve as secretary for the Pennsylvania Association for Counselor Education and Supervision and have served on the Professional Development Committee for Chi Sigma Iota, and as an Excellence in Counseling Research Grant Reviewer for Chi Sigma Iota, Pennsylvania Counseling Association Awards Review Team, and the Pennsylvania Counseling Association Conference Reviewer. Over the years I have presented at several conferences including PCA, NARACES, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, and Mental Health America.



My goal is to continue to advocate for Pennsylvania’s counselors. It is important to build a strong professional identity and to develop as strong advocates for our clients to remove barriers to services. As counselors, we must be willing to challenge the systems that prevent clients from accessing mental health services and as counselors we have the voices to do so. It is important to continue the work of PCA to recruit and develop a diverse body of leaders to continue to build our professional identity as counselors. This will require me to be an advocate in Harrisburg and in collaboration with other professional organizations, and a leader who builds a strong association that provides value to all members in the areas of accreditation, board certification, continuing education, and licensure.