Hello Pennsylvania Counseling Association Members,

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It is with sincere pleasure that I begin my term as the 55th President of the Pennsylvania Counseling Association (PCA) effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.  I have served on the PCA Board since 2015 as the Professional Development Chair, Conference Co-Chair, and Secretary.  During my tenure in PCA, I have had the opportunity to collaborate with incredible leaders in the counseling profession.  From my experiences I have created goals for my presidency to continue to grow the association to best represent and support you, our membership.

As President-Elect I was present with many of our committees in their continued work to bring the benefits of PCA membership to life.  The Committee for Anti-Racism and Inclusion Action (CARIA) has offered multiple membership scholarships for BIPOC applicants. Marketing and Public Relations delivers PCA news and updates through social media engagement, as well as launching a Discord server for member networking.  The Government Relations Committee is fervently working to keep PCA members updated on current legislation, advocacy efforts and outreach, and diligently continue to direct efforts toward progress in Pennsylvania for the Counseling Compact.

As counselors we recognize the need to advocate for what is best for our clients, ourselves, and our profession.  I opted for the 55th Annual Conference to be held in Harrisburg this year, just blocks from the State Capitol building, with the hope that the conference energy and location will bring excitement and an eagerness to reach out to your local state representatives and senators so that we may continue to advance the profession.  With the number of challenges occurring in state and federal legislatures, now more than ever, it is essential for us to be stronger together through our relationships and collaborative efforts.  Through connections, personal growth and development, and cultural competence and proficiency, we may support our clients and each other as we strive for equality and equity for marginalized and minority groups across the Commonwealth.

I would like to congratulate our 54th President Dr. Matthew Nice on PCA’s successes during his Presidency in 2022-2023.  I have benefited from the learning opportunities over the last year and appreciate his continued involvement as Immediate Past-President.

To our PCA membership:  I look forward to hearing your voices and continuing to serve you and your needs as current and future Pennsylvania Professional Counselors.  I also encourage you to reach out to the Board if you are interested in being more active in any of our many leadership efforts.

I look forward to the next year and the opportunity to bring our counselor community even closer together.

Best,

Ashley Deurlein, LPC, NCC, School Counselor PK-12

(she/her)

55th President

Pennsylvania Counseling Association