

OAA Bulletin

January 4, 2023



VA Nurse Residency Program Coordinating Center

In July 2022, OAA released a request for proposals (RFP) for the VA Nurse Residency Program Coordinating Center (NRPCC) to provide routine support and guidance to OAA Nurse Residency Programs. The NRPCC RFP process was competitive, with many robust applications from interested VA medical facilities. OAA is pleased to announce that the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System has been selected. The VA NRPCC aims to support data collection, education, awareness, recruitment, retention, routine operational support, and program resources. For more information, contact the OAA Nursing Team at vhacooaanursing@va.gov.

2023 Karen M. Sanders, MD, Designated Education Officer of the Year Award

The Karen M. Sanders, MD, Designated Education Officer of the Year Award recognizes a VA medical facility Designated Education Officer (DEO) with an outstanding track record in health professions education (HPE) in the following areas: educational administration, curriculum, health professions trainee (HPT) assessment, program evaluation, educational research, educational policy and/or affiliate relationships. The DEO recipient of this award will receive a plaque and \$7,500 in award funding. There is a 1-step nomination process on the OAA National Awards [Karen M. Sanders Designated Education Officer of the Year Award](#) webpage. The deadline for submissions is **January 13, 2023**. For additional information, please contact VHAOAAAwards@va.gov.

Trainee Recruitment Event

The Trainee Recruitment and Hiring Workgroup would like to encourage facilities and the below-HPE training programs to participate in the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Quarter 2 Trainee Recruitment Event. This event will match HPTs completing training in Summer 2023 with VA positions. The following professions will be included:

Optometry	Physician Assistant	Physical Therapy	Marriage and Family Therapy
Blind Rehabilitation	Nurse Practitioner	Audiology	Occupational Therapy
Orthotics/Prosthetics	Social Work	Speech Pathology	Mental Health Counselors

Facilities with open entry-level positions in these professions have a 2-week period to register between **January 10-24, 2023**. HPTs have a 2-week period to register and upload their Curriculum Vitae (CV) between **February 1 –14, 2023**. Official announcements and registration links are soon to come. For additional information, contact trainee.recruitment@va.gov.

Rural Interprofessional Faculty Development Initiative (RIFDI)

The Rural Interprofessional Faculty Development Initiative (RIFDI) is announcing a call for participants in its fourth cohort. Eligible VA facilities include those with a greater than 40% rurality proportion of Veterans served; those with a large rural community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC); and/or those with limited graduate medical education HPTs (defined as fewer than 20 FTE annually). Each eligible facility can nominate up to two interprofessional clinician

educators interested in developing their skills as educators and advancing HPE in their facility. A non-binding letter of intent is due to OAA by **February 3, 2023**, with the full application due no later than **March 3, 2023**. An informational session will occur on January 19 at 3:00 p.m. EST. For additional information, contact VHAOARIFDI@va.gov.

January 19 at 3:00 EST 1-872-701-0185 [Microsoft Teams Link](#) ID: 241 892 878 301 Passcode: hCa7b

Rehabilitation Counseling Request for Proposals

OAA, in partnership with the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMHSP), is pleased to announce a limited RFP for funding opportunities for the Rehabilitation Counseling Training Program for the academic year (AY) 2023-2024. The completed RFP applications are due **February 24, 2023**. An informational session will occur on January 10 at 4:00 p.m. EST. For additional information, please email Assoc.Health@va.gov.

January 10 at 4:00 EST 1-872-701-0185 [Microsoft Teams Link](#) ID: 263 823 354 409 Passcode: WN6pFv

HPT Spotlight Story



Rachel Wallace, PhD, earned her doctoral degree in Counseling Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University and her Bachelor of Science from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She completed her predoctoral internship at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Florida, and is currently a Rehabilitation Psychology Postdoctoral fellow at the Central Virginia VA Health Care System. Dr. Wallace is a member of the Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems research team and the American Psychological Association's Division 22 Mentoring Committee.

Raised in a military family, Dr. Wallace is drawn to work in a setting where she can serve Veterans. She also sought VA training across all stages of training because of the excellent clinical opportunities in unique settings and the opportunities to expand in different disciplines. Her training with VA has provided flexibility to seek out challenging experiences integral to her personal and professional growth that is not easily accessible at other training sites. Dr. Wallace hopes to continue working in the VA to grow her career by taking on administrative and supervisory roles.

VA's Academic Mission in the News and Trainee Spotlight

OAA is pleased to share recent news stories highlighting VA's academic mission and our HPTs. Please consider submitting your HPTs to be featured in an upcoming OAA Bulletin or VA national stories. Please complete the [Trainee Spotlight Story Questionnaire](#) to submit a nomination. Share your successes, news, and story ideas with OAA's Public Affairs Team, Tonya Lobbstaal at tonya.lobbestael@va.gov.

- [VA's Interprofessional Training Program Improves Quality of Primary Care](#)
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