

OAA Bulletin

March 1, 2023



Registered Dietitians/Nutritionists Education Expansion Request for Proposal

The Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) is pleased to announce the VA-sponsored dietitians/nutritionists education expansion request for proposals (RFP) for fiscal year 2025/academic year (AY) 2024-2025. The RFP targets applications for new accredited VA-sponsored dietitian/nutritionist HPT positions within VA medical facilities. A non-binding letter of intent is due to OAA by **March 31**. The full proposal is due by **June 30**. Notification of results will be released to VA facilities by July 21. Funding will begin on July 1, 2024. Please direct questions to Associated Health Education at Assoc.Health@va.gov.

2023 VA/Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program: Call for Applicants

Applications are now being accepted for the [2023 VA/Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program](#). This one-year mentored policy program is sponsored by the Atlantic Philanthropies in collaboration with The Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc. This is a unique opportunity for professionals in health and aging to receive the experience and skills necessary to contribute to developing and implementing health policies that affect older Americans. Pre-applications are being accepted through **March 23**, and full applications are due no later than **April 17** for the program slated to begin in Fall 2023. For more information or questions, contact Deborah Ludke at Deborah.Ludke@va.gov.

Rural Interprofessional Faculty Development Initiative (RIFDI)

The call for participants in the fourth cohort of the Rural Interprofessional Faculty Development Initiative (RIFDI) is now open. The full application is due no later than **March 3**. The letter of intent and full application must be uploaded to the [VA OAA RFP portal](#). The person submitting your site's participant agreement forms must register in the portal before uploading. For additional information, contact VHAOARIFDI@va.gov.

VA Health Professions Education Week Toolkit

VA Health Professions Education Week (VA HPEW) will be held **March 13 – 17** to recognize Designated Education Officers (DEOs), VA clinical faculty, health professions trainees (HPTs) and academic affiliates for their contributions to Veteran care and training future health professionals for VA and the nation. The [VA HPEW toolkit](#) to plan your site's celebration is now available. The toolkit includes a slotted news release to be sent to local media on **March 13**, event suggestions and guides, daily social media posts, employee and Veteran messages, digital signage templates, videos and much more. DEOs are encouraged to work with their Public Affairs Officer and VA facility leadership to plan VA HPEW media coverage and events. VA HPEW activities may include academic roundtables, VA tours for affiliate leadership, poster sessions, or customized events. For more information, please contact tonya.lobbestael@va.gov.

HPT Spotlight Story



Alison Krauss, PhD, earned her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from Southern Methodist University. She is an Advanced Postdoctoral Fellow in Mental Illness Research and Treatment at the Center of Excellence (CoE) for Research on Returning War Veterans, Central Texas VA Health Care System. This fellowship focused on grantsmanship and fostering clinical research. Dr. Krauss had the opportunity to collaborate with investigators across VA to bolster her publication record in preparation for her grant application. She is housing several large longitudinal datasets and state-of-the-art genetic and neuroimaging equipment. This CoE is strategically located near Fort Hood, an Army base representing the largest military installation. This has allowed her the unique opportunity to foster a successful line of research examining military personnel transitioning out of the military and building strong professional connections. Dr. Krauss has greatly impacted her colleagues during her fellowship; her training director describes her as the benchmark for research productivity, clinical work, and service commitment as a fellow. Dr. Krauss has been insightful, focused, meticulous, and aware of ethical and cultural considerations.

“VA provides outstanding opportunities for training in evidence-based care, research methodology, statistical modeling, analysis, and grantsmanship. My clinical and research interests involve trauma, suicide, and aggression; being able to provide gold-standard care to those most affected by these concerns has been a gratifying part of my training. Even with these unique and exciting opportunities, the most memorable part of my training has been the overwhelming support from my research supervisor, training director, and all investigators at the CoE. I am a valued member, and my mentors repeatedly demonstrate their investment in me and my career.”

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 Lobbestael at tonya.lobbestael@va.gov.

- [Virtual Treatments Create Improvements in Care](#)

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