

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR  
CREATIVITY IN COUNSELING  
A DIVISION OF  
THE AMERICAN COUNSELING ASSOCIATION**

**ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER, 2004**

Dear Dr. Hartling,

March 15, 2010

It is with much pleasure that we inform you that you have been selected as the recipient of the **Association for Creativity in Counseling Research Award**. This award recognizes research that addresses issues related to creative, diverse, and relational approaches to counseling.

Since your earliest publications integrating the concepts of humiliation, dignity, and relational theory, your work has challenged dominant paradigms in mental health and has brought increased validation to relational and contextual ideologies. You have been an integral part of the development and advancement of Relational-Cultural Theory, one of the primary approaches advocated by ACC. More specifically, your examination of the operation of power dynamics that prevent people from participating in growth-fostering relationships has had a significant impact on the theory.

You have written and spoken extensively on resilience, substance abuse prevention, appreciative inquiry, relational practice in the workplace, and developments in RCT. You are a co-editor of *The Complexity of Connection: Writings from the Jean Baker Miller Training Institute at the Stone Center (2004)*, and you have supervised the publication of many Stone Center Working Papers, project reports, training videos, and home study programs.

Another specialized focus of your research and exploration is the study of humiliation. You are the director of Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies and the editor for the Journal of Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies. You have published extensively in this area and have traveled internationally to expand further inquiry into this unique and important topic.

The Association for Creativity in Counseling values and admires the difference you are making in the field of counseling and beyond. Given your interests and the harmonious goals of ACC, we hope to join with you in future projects and endeavors.

The ACC award winners will be acknowledged at the ACC Business Meeting at ACA on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> and the awards will be formally presented to the recipients at the ACC Creativity in Counseling Conference in Portland, Oregon on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010. If you will be attending either of these conferences, please contact me at [sbk@lclark.edu](mailto:sbk@lclark.edu).

Sincerely,

Stella Kerl-McClain, Ph.D.  
ACC Awards Chair