

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NBCC Foundation Scholarship Endowed in Memory of Beloved UNCG Professor

Greensboro, NC—The NBCC Foundation is pleased to announce the endowment of a new doctoral-level counseling scholarship named for Dr. Nicholas A. Vacc, a counselor educator whose influence has shaped both the local university he called home for most of his career and the counseling profession as a whole.

It is difficult to be a student at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) without knowing something about Dr. Vacc, even if his name sounds unfamiliar at first.

There are tangible symbols of his legacy around the campus, from the majestic 47-foot tall Vacc Bell Tower in Anniversary Plaza, to the Nicholas A. Vacc Counseling and Consulting Clinic, which is located in the Ferguson Building and provides access to counseling services for both UNCG students and the surrounding community.

Less visible, perhaps, but possibly far more significant, is the impact that Dr. Vacc had, and continues to have even so many years beyond his death in 2002, on both UNCG and the counseling profession as a whole. He taught at UNCG for 23 years, serving as chair of the Department of Counseling and Educational Development from 1986 to 1996. Throughout a distinguished professional career, Dr. Vacc was instrumental in developing the reputation of his own department, and influential on a national level as well.

The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) owes much of the early development of the National Counselor Examination to Dr. Vacc and his colleague, Dr. Larry Loesch. The two worked together for more than 20 years on developing different variations of the exam, as well as on the procedures to analyze and maintain the integrity of the results, all long before any of the process could be done electronically.

Additionally, Dr. Vacc was a key player in the development of national standards for the accreditation of counseling programs. He spent years advocating for national accreditation and helped to write and promote several early versions of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) standards. Today, CACREP accreditation is rapidly becoming a necessity for the success of counseling programs nationwide, and a degree from a CACREP-accredited institution is set to become a requirement for board certification beginning in 2022.

A humble and unassuming man himself, Dr. Vacc also devoted much of his time to making sure that other counselors and counseling students got the recognition they deserved. He was a constant supporter of the international counseling honor society, Chi Sigma Iota (CSI), particularly in its early years, establishing the Upsilon Nu Chi chapter of CSI at UNCG in 1986, and later serving terms both as editor of *Exemplar*, CSI International's newsletter, and as CSI International President.

In short, Dr. Vacc's career was one of exceptional accomplishment, and his devotion to the counseling field has left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege to work with him and learn from him.

Dr. Vacc's legacy within the profession that he loved continues to live on, in part, through the generosity of his beloved wife and fellow collegiate educator, Dr. Nancy Vacc. It is in his memory that she has established the Dr. Nicholas Vacc

Scholarship with the NBCC Foundation. The award directly honors the aspects of the counseling profession that Dr. Vacc most treasured: education, research, and collaboration.

Applicants for the Vacc Scholarship award must be full-time doctoral-level counseling students with a dissertation focus on research and/or testing that strengthens the field of counseling. They must also be enrolled at a CACREP-accredited program and provide documentation of membership in Chi Sigma Iota. For full eligibility requirements or to apply for the Dr. Nicholas Vacc Scholarship, please visit <http://bit.ly/2018Vacc>. The application period runs through June 30, 2018, and the awardee will be announced in August 2018.

About the NBCC Foundation

The NBCC Foundation is the nonprofit affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), based in Greensboro, North Carolina. The NBCC is the nation's premier professional certification board devoted to credentialing counselors who meet standards for the general and specialty practices of professional counseling. Currently, there are more than 64,000 board certified counselors in the United States and more than 50 countries. The Foundation's mission is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change. To find out more about the NBCC Foundation and how planned giving can help you honor the memory of a loved one, visit www.nbccf.org/donate.

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