

Kelly Gentry, PhD, NCC

Candidate for Trustee of Counselor Educators and Researchers



Kelly Gentry is a counselor educator at the University of Denver (DU). She also runs a private mental health and career counseling practice. Over the past 11 years she has taught Career Counseling at both Montclair State University and the University of Denver. At DU she was hired as the online course developer creating the syllabus, and assignments, as well as recording the lectures, adapting the teaching of career counseling to the virtual education environment.

Previously, Kelly was the inaugural Manager of Career Services for the Graduate Program in Public Health at the Icahn School of Medicine. In this role she founded an alumni advisory board, implemented using the Handshake career platform, executed three career fairs, and initiated and ran the first ever Public Health Professional Development Conference for the program. This full day even brought together students, staff, employers, and members of the community to build relationships and educate attendees about finding the right career in public health.

Kelly received her MA in School Counseling and PhD in Counselor Education from Montclair State University. She previously served as Student Trustee and President of the New Jersey Career Development Association and has presented at various conferences about career development and counseling. Kelly is currently the co-chair of the International Association for Resilience and Trauma Counseling (IARTC) professional development committee and received the 2024 *Traumatic Stress and Resilience Counselor Advocate Award*.

Goal Statement:

As a board trustee my commitment is to advocate passionately for counselor educators and researchers. During my tenure, I aim to foster collaboration and connection by establishing a resource group among our members. Together, we will plan events and activities that not only address your needs but also create a sense of belonging and shared purpose. By building this network, we can leverage our collective expertise to make progress in career development research and education. We can identify areas where we can improve, innovate, and better support one another through research. Diversity and inclusion will be integral to every project ensuring that the needs of all of the members of our group and those that we advocate for are a part of our work.

Career counseling courses are often not seen as being as important as other courses in mental health and school counseling curriculum. This is a shared experience that members of this constituency can work to combat by developing ways to engage counselor educators and students in timely and thought-provoking research projects and activities that advance the field of career development.