



National Counseling Group, Inc.
Since 1993

MEDIA RELEASE

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**Director Of The Institute for Government and Public Service
Karen Kennedy Schultz
To be Honored with *Community Service Award* at
National Counseling Group's National Conference in Richmond**

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***Director of the Institute for Government and Public Service at Shenandoah University;
Featured at Event Held to Bring Awareness to Virginia's Mental Health Care Challenges
During Tough Economic Times and Showcase Benefits of Public-Private Partnerships***

Richmond, Va. – Dr. Schultz, Director of the Institute of Government and Public Service at Shenandoah University, will be honored with a *Community Service Award* at the National Counseling Group's Third Annual Conference, which will take place on Wednesday, October 7, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Greater Richmond Convention Center (403 North Third Street, Richmond, Va.). Dr. Schultz, who is also an Associate Professor with the Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia, is being recognized for the dedication and vision she brings to her work at as an educator, mentor and community leader.

Dr. Schultz has been a faculty member with Shenandoah University since 1981, and during her tenure been honored with a variety of teaching and services awards. Recent awards include the university-wide exemplary teaching award in 2009 and the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Service Award in 2005. Dr. Schultz has also been honored as the pharmacy school's teacher of the year and teacher of the year by the Student Government Association. In the classroom, her vision has led to national recognition for innovations in teaching, and her service learning course has contributed nearly 16,000 hours of student community service in the Winchester area and achieved national recognition. Active at the state level, Karen Schultz was recently appointed by the governor to serve on the Virginia Board of Nursing and is a member of the Virginia Commission on Energy and Environment.

For the last 10 semesters, Karen Schultz has taught a service learning course that she helped develop at Shenandoah University to prepare students to learn how to communicate with different populations. "What excites me the most is having the opportunity to engage our students in the concept of public service and put them in classrooms without walls." says Dr. Schultz. This course, for first year doctoral pharmacy students, provides them with a service learning opportunity in 1 of 15 different nonprofits settings in the Winchester area varying from correctional to public school to hospice settings. "I am so grateful to have a job that is so much fun and puts me in touch with vibrant students and community members". "It is so exciting to see students grow through the community connections made by creating a bridge between the learning and local communities in the Winchester area."

“The leadership of NCG first met Dr. Schultz when we were opening up our Winchester office. Karen was immediately welcoming of the resources we were able to offer the community and she quickly began linking us with agencies that would benefit from knowing about our services. It was abundantly clear to me that Karen is a caring and compassionate leader in her community”, remarked NCG President and CEO, Tom Minnick. “I have a great deal of respect for her work and philosophy regarding education and professionalism.”

The NCG National Conference where Dr. Schultz will be honored in Richmond will also feature remarks from Richmond City Mayor, Dwight C. Jones, Delegates Dave Marsden, Steve Shannon and Lionell Spruill, former Secretary of Education Jim Dyke, and Reverend Luke Torian. In addition to presenting a Community Service Award to Karen Schultz, NCG will also honor Sylvia Copeland-Murphy, Community Resources Office for Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority and Jane Lanham, FAPT Specialist with Chesterfield/Colonial Heights CSA.

The overall focus of the conference will be on raising awareness about Virginia’s mental health policy challenges during tough economic times and showcasing the benefits of public-private partnerships in bringing care to those most in need.

Attendance at the conference is free for members of the media with advance registration; Contact Debbie Sikes or 703-932-5896 to register.

BACKGROUND:

The National Counseling Group, Inc. (NCG) is a private organization that was established in 1993 by Thomas W. Minnick in order to provide an outpatient program designed to more effectively address the needs of individuals suffering from the combination of mental health and substance abuse disorders by treating dual diagnosis under one roof. Comprised of highly skilled, professional and caring counselors, NCG has provided premium therapeutic services to individuals and families throughout Virginia for over 16 years and has received many accolades for the variety of community-based, school-based and outpatient services available to address mental health needs throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. NCG currently has 20 offices with locations in Winchester, Exmore, Herndon, Petersburg, Manassas, Marshall, Martinsville, Newport News, Richmond, Virginia Beach, Roanoke, Annandale, Fredericksburg, Culpeper, Front Royal, Harrisonburg, Staunton and Warrenton.

NCG specializes in treating behavioral problems, substance abuse issues, mental health disorders, and family discord through a multi-systemic approach and evidence-based practice. NCG has contracts with over 100 public agencies, including various Departments of Social Services, Court Services Units, Community Service Boards and public schools, serving clients in more than 50 counties across the Commonwealth.

In addition, NCG continues to play a major role to increase the accessibility of care to children, adults and families through public-private partnerships, provision of community-based programming, school-based programming, Therapeutic Foster Care, offering Medicaid-funded services and through charitable giving. In fact, in 2008 alone, NCG provided more than 300,000 units of care to over 6,000 individuals and families and donated more than \$160,000 to charitable causes including contributions for clothing and Christmas gifts for foster care children, church donations, college scholarships, Wolf Trap Foundation and the SAFE Initiative. Additionally, NCG dedicated more than \$650,000 to Public/Professional Service Trainings, public advocacy and clinical quality control.

NCG has been recognized for its innovative and excellent professional services by President Ronald Reagan, Governor Tim Kaine, The Washington Post, the Clinton Administration, and twice by the Virginia General Assembly. In July of 2008, Mr. Minnick was featured on the cover of the NFIB My Business Magazine. For more information about NCG, visit www.nationalcounselinggroup.com.