

2009 Nebraska Marriage and Family Therapists of the Year



Richard J. Bischoff, Ph.D., LMFT.

Dr. Bischoff acquired his doctorate from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, at 1993.

Specialization is Marriage and Family Therapy. He became a clinical member of Association for Marriage and Family Therapy in 1992, and an approved supervisor of AAMFT in 1995. He became graduate faculty and fellow of University of Nebraska, Lincoln, in 1998. He is currently Associate Professor and Director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska (2000-Present). Prior to Nebraska, he was assistant professor of Marriage, Family and Child Counseling Program at University of California, San Diego, California (1993-1998).

He has published approximately 48 articles and authored one book and six book chapters. His other clinical involvement includes being site visitor of Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (1996-Present), serving on the Editorial Advisory Board member of Journal of Marital and Family Therapy (2001-Present) and Journal of Couples and Relationship Therapy (2000-Present). He was invited to make numerous national professional presentations, including three times serving as a local presenter at NAMFT conferences.

His philosophy of clinical work: “These two principles are the heart of my philosophy about clinical work as a marriage and family therapist. First, the patient and family are at the heart of ethical practice and effective mental health care. When anything else takes precedence over the patient and family, albeit the diagnosis, the problem, the business of health care delivery, the therapist, or the therapeutic approach, the treatment is compromised and both the practice and profession of mental health care is weakened. Second, a person’s most important relationships are the incubator for both problems and solutions and are an individual’s the primary source of strength and competency. Harnessing the power of these relationships is the key to meaningful change and health.”

Nominator: “Though I have not been in the therapy room with Richard, in our trade where the best advertisement is word by mouth, the word on the street is that he is very much as kind as he is fair a therapist. I have worked with him outside of the therapy room and he is so integrity driven that sometimes I almost think of him as aloof, no, a maverick. One of his many supervisees stated ‘Dr. Bischoff helped me reach my fullest potential as a marriage and family therapist through his dedication and commitment to being a supervisor. He holds a high regard for clinical practice and knowledge base, which helped to stretch and grow my abilities to become a better therapist.’ On his watch in Nebraska, 64 marriage and family therapists were born.”



Layne A. Prest, Ph.D., LIMFT

Dr. Prest acquired his doctorate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, in 1991. Specialization is Marriage and Family Therapy. He became clinical member of American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy in 1984 and an approved supervisor of AAMFT in 1989. Currently, he is Associate Professor and Director of Behavioral Medicine Training, Department of Family Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska (1998- present). He became graduate faculty and Fellow (2002) of College of Medicine, UNMC, Omaha, Nebraska, in 1994.

He contributed as item writer at the Licensure Exam Committee of Professional Examination Services, New York, New York, at 2000 and 2008, via the Association for Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB).

Dr. Prest is journal article reviewer for the Journal of Marital and Family Therapy and member of Editorial Board of the Journal of Feminist Family Therapy . He was voted by the Family Medicine residents as Teacher of the Year in the Department of Family Medicine 1995, 2001 and 2008. He was a member of the AAMFT Core Competencies Task Force (2003-2004). Dr. Prest published approximately 10 articles, 24 book chapters. He made numerous national presentations; locally he presented three times at NAMFT conferences.

His philosophy of clinical work: “My clinical perspective is based in general systems theory and the derivative bio-psycho-social-spiritual (BPSS) model. I work with people in a collaborative manner, including an ongoing negotiation of worldview of the presenting problem and contributing issues. As a result, I use a variety of therapy models within the systemic framework, addressing the reciprocal interactions among cognitive, emotional, behavioral, interpersonal, mind-body, social, cultural, and spiritual aspects of the clients’ experience.”

Nominator: “ Layne has a very therapeutic personality because he can make an impact on people’s lives. He is a Renaissance man because he always keeps himself at the cutting edge of therapeutic knowledge. He can conduct therapy in Spanish. But he is not just bilingual, he is also bicultural because one experiences him as ecumenical. I heard former supervisees comment that he is the best because he can support as well as challenge the therapist in supervision at any developmental stage. He is an outstanding person and therapist. “



William M. Rucker, M.S.W., LIMFT, LCSW.

Mr. Rucker graduated from Department of Social Work, University of Nebraska at Omaha, in 1979. He became a clinical member of American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy in 1983, and an approved supervisor of AAMFT in 1989. He has been in clinical practice for 32 years. He worked in the Cass Country Mental Health Clinic for two years, a psychiatric practice for six years and then in private practice for 24 years, the last seven of which is at Family Enrichment, Inc.. He supervised about forty practitioners at different times who became licensed marriage and family therapists and social workers. He taught at University of Nebraska at Omaha in their Sioux City Social Work Extension program and did a supervision day once a month for about ten years.

Mr. Rucker has given numerous workshops on Brief, Solution-Oriented Therapy and on Men's Issues over the years. He had also taught Group Therapy courses and Family Therapy courses at Graduate School of Social Work, University of Nebraska at Omaha. He did a workshop for people in pastoral ministry on brief therapy methods once a year for twenty years at no cost. He made use of his rich clinical skills and his past 11 years experience of a priest. At the present time he does a great deal of couples counseling and he looks forward to constantly learning new ways of growing in this work

His philosophy of clinical work: "I once heard Michael Yapko began a clinical session by saying, "Let's find some resources!" This sums up my clinical philosophy—my task is to help my clients find their strengths and utilize them to enrich their lives. This is accomplished by listening carefully to their stories and to find the goals and resources to reach these. I also heard another therapist — I don't remember who — say "Don't listen to problems — listen to people!" It's fascinating and exciting work."

Nominator: "Bill has been a fundamental component in our state toward the promotion of beginning practitioners. He has supervised numerous therapists toward the attainment of their clinical membership in AAMFT. He exemplifies the traits of the highest ethical standards, and provides an approach to supervision that offers those new in the field a sense of pride in their work, humor in the absurd, and an appreciation of the profession. Bill has been a consistent model in demonstrating that we do well for clients by giving them our respect."