

Candidate for President-Elect:

Chetan Joshi, Ph.D.

Director, University of Maryland Counseling Center



Prior Engagement / Involvement with AUCCCD:

I joined AUCCCD after my appointment as the Director of the University of Maryland's Counseling Center in 2020. I was excited and humbled to be elected to a one year term on the Board this past year and I have truly enjoyed the work. As a Board member, I have contributed in significant and meaningful ways to the organization of the Nashville conference, development of a mental health marker bill that will be presented to the federal legislature, and to the Board's conversations and efforts to keep moving our organization forward in meaningful ways. I sincerely hope to continue my work on the Board if given the opportunity.

Candidate Statement:

I felt deeply humbled and immensely grateful when senior colleagues within AUCCCD encouraged me to submit my application for the President Elect position. Their vote of confidence in me as a person and my ability to contribute in meaningful ways to our organization, has truly meant a lot to me. Given their counsel, I am submitting my application for the President Elect position of AUCCCD.

Who am I?

My name is Chetan Joshi and I serve as the Director of the University of Maryland, College Park's Counseling Center. In this capacity, I oversee the University's Counseling Center, its Accessibility and Disability Service, and the Research Unit based within the Center. The University of Maryland is a large school with 45000 students and I oversee a combined staff of sixty between the three offices that I supervise.

I am originally from India, trained as a pharmacist there, and came to the US in 2000 to get a PhD in pharmacology. Instead, I graduated with a masters degree in pharmacology and decided to follow my passion for psychology, eventually graduating with a PhD in Counseling Psychology from the University of Missouri- Kansas City. My entire career has been in collegiate mental health. After graduation, I started the dual position as a staff psychologist and the Coordinator of Disability Services at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. In 2013, I was hired as the assistant director of Counseling and Mental Health Services at the University of Connecticut, eventually becoming an associate director and then the interim director of that center, before accepting the Director position at the University of Maryland in 2020.

My experience as an international student, an immigrant to the United States, and a person of international origin in our field, have all informed my work in our field.

My Work

I will only write about some meaningful highlights of my work over the last couple of years. My CV provides any additional details that you may need. Being trained as a pharmacist and being an immigrant to this country, respect for diversity of thought and backgrounds, a strong commitment to equity and inclusion, flexibility, and adaptability have been the cornerstones of my work and leadership. At the University of Maryland, I have worked hard to build a truly Comprehensive Counseling Center,

because our context necessitates it. This work has included introducing a stepped care approach to clinical work, establishing contracts with teletherapy companies to expand our reach, developing an embedded clinician model, significantly expanding our outreach and prevention efforts through programs like Narrative 4 and Sudarshan Kriya Yoga (SKY), and developing radically different protocols for how the institution manages students requiring higher levels of care.

This past year, I also served as a member of the AUCCCD's Board and contributed in significant and meaningful ways to the development of our upcoming conference in Nashville, a marker bill for mental health and higher education, and to the overall efforts of the Board. This experience of being on the Board has been truly meaningful for me.

My Vision

I strongly believe that the answer to the question of how to address the challenges of collegiate mental health depends on our individual contexts. Each institution, each counseling center, is faced with a unique set of supporting and limiting factors and the solution depends on a careful analysis and understanding of these factors. My hope is to support all development and innovation that helps us effectively address the challenge of collegiate mental health.

Over the past few years, other organizations and companies have stepped into our field, at times claiming to have the 'golden answer' to the question of how best to support the mental health needs of our students. At times, we as an organization, have had to defend our work. We do not need to defend our work! Our centers have effectively grappled and managed the challenge of collegiate mental health for decades! We have innovated, we have adapted, and we have grown! My hope is to support all of you by highlighting the work of Counseling Centers at the national level. This will require partnerships with other organizations and companies in the field, but I am committed to supporting the work that our Board is already doing to establish AUCCCD as a known and respected entity in the field.

Finally, our work as an organization, exists within the larger context of our country and the times that we are living through. We have seen an incredible amount of strife over these past years. Our brothers and sisters of various marginalized identities have faced an incredible amount of oppression and injustice. As the President of AUCCCD, I hope to strongly support our organization's efforts to address these systems of oppression and injustice at their core whenever relevant, wherever and whenever possible.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to submit my application for the President Elect position of AUCCCD. Thank you for taking the time to read my application and for your consideration of my candidacy. Regardless of whether I am elected to the position, I remain strongly committed to the work of our organization through my continued participation on the Board.