

ICB INSIGHTS

LEADERSHIP LENS

Today we live in times of uncivil if not a toxic social and political environment. There are several contributing factors. As a country we lived through a two-to-three-year lockdown in reaction to COVID-19. The disruptions to relationships, family, community, education, and the economy were unprecedented. The social fabric of society has yet fully recovered. The psychological consequences will be felt for a long time to come. This points to the importance of what we do as a profession to help heal those with the lived experience of substance use and mental health issues.

Today more than ever it is critical that we, as behavioral health professionals, maintain our professionalism and human kindness with others, those we serve, and the professional community in general. It is important to understand that we, as behavioral health professionals are by the nature of our work and ethics, held to a much higher standard.

The first question is, are we professionals? The answer of course is yes. We stand in the ranks of other behavioral health professionals including clinical psychologists, social workers, clinical counselors, and marriage & family therapists. Many of those in our ranks are also members of those professions. Professionalism is those values and professional roles that we exhibit in our day-to-day behavior. When we examine the term professionalism it is understood first in terms of respect for oneself and others. It is also our professional competence and what we do to maintain the knowledge and skill levels. Finally, it exhibits mature responsibility and especially in our profession, problem solving perseverance.

Professionalism is judged by several factors. First, by a set of established standards and the code of ethical behaviors. The individuals' personal values and what they interpret "professionalism" to mean also factors in. On the surface you are judged by your projected image and personal demeanor. This is all built upon the foundation of competence. I remember the motto when I was in Boy Scouts. The scout is always "Brave, Clean, and Reverent", in addition to their motto "Be Prepared".

As a professional it is important for us to embrace the following qualities and characteristics. It starts with our being courteous and respectful in all aspects of our interactions with others. Acting with integrity and trust holds us to the higher standard. In the work that we do, being empathetic and committed is the foundation of the work we do with those whom we serve.



Joseph Troiani
ICB President



ICB INSIGHTS

A BRAND NEW LOOK

As we approach the start of a new fiscal year, the Illinois Certification Board is stepping confidently into a season of transformation. From the look and feel of our operations to the depth and clarity of our processes, we are embracing a brand new chapter—one built on modernization, accessibility, and long-term sustainability.

Over the past year, ICB has made significant strides in better serving the professionals who make up Illinois' behavioral health and recovery workforce. One of the most exciting developments has been the launch of our CADC Prep Course that was part of the CADC Workforce Expansion program between ICB and DHS, SUPR. Designed to offer guidance and structure for individuals pursuing certification as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, this course is helping to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and exam readiness. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and we're proud to support future CADCs in such a meaningful way.

But the momentum doesn't stop there.

New things are on the horizon. Beginning next fiscal year, ICB will roll out important changes to both our testing protocols and the CADC model. These changes are designed to reduce barriers, ensure greater alignment with national standards, and accelerate the certification process—all while maintaining the high level of professional integrity our field demands.

We are also preparing for enhancements to our application and credentialing systems, refining internal workflows, and expanding our digital infrastructure to make ICB more responsive, more accessible, and more efficient for everyone we serve.

This is more than just an operational upgrade—it's a cultural one. Our "brand new look" is about positioning ICB not only as a certifying body but as a partner in professional growth, workforce development, and system change.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your dedication to excellence and service continues to inspire the work we do. Stay tuned—because at ICB, change isn't coming. It's already here.



Chris Boyster
ICB Executive Director

ICB INSIGHTS

CADC WORKFORCE EXPANSION PROGRAM SITE VISITS

On April 14–15, ICB leadership visited Lewis University, College of DuPage, and Aurora University Phase 2 ATP schools in the CADC Workforce Expansion Program. Executive Director Chris Boyster and Deputy Director Julia Ford met with students, faculty, and program staff to learn how CADC funding is supporting students through tuition, stipends, and other wraparound services.

This initiative, a partnership with IDHS/SUPR, provides students with the tools and support needed to pursue careers in substance use counseling. In return, students commit to two years of employment at an Illinois SUPR-licensed/SUPR-funded prevention, treatment, harm-reduction, or recovery organization. Chris and Julia were inspired by the students' stories and the schools' commitment to shaping the next generation of CADCs. Learn more at ilcadcworkforce.org.



College of DuPage
Site Visit



Aurora University Site Visit

ICB INSIGHTS

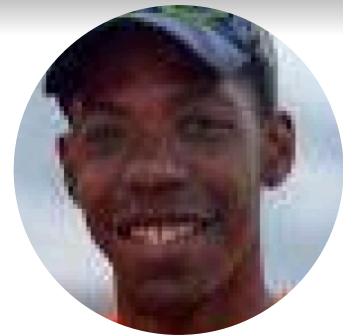
CADC GRANT STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

"The grant has helped me with a lot of stress surrounding my financial burdens while finishing my degree and working towards my CADC. Especially with the reimbursement for gas mileage as that has been such a steep cost while commuting to and from both my internship site as well as the University. Even more so, the laptop that was provided through the grant has been a great boon as I have been using an older laptop that does not run well nor had access to basic programs such as Word or PowerPoint. The tuition reimbursement as well as the stipend has also provided a little breathing room for myself for basic necessities such as groceries and other essentials. It makes me incredibly happy that others entering the field of substance use treatment and who are pursuing their CADC have access to this grant and can benefit from it as it has assisted me well on my journey to complete my masters and attain my CADC."



Daniel McAnally
Lewis University Student

"Last year, I finished my last eligible year of athletics, and with that came the loss of the scholarship I earned. At first, I thought nothing of it; however, when the first graduate school bill came in for the fall semester, I was reminded how fortunate I was to have been given that opportunity and financial support by my coaches. When this grant was offered, I saw this as a prime opportunity to offset some of the tuition. This tipping of the scales has made me feel more financially secure and capable of repaying my loans in the future. Not worrying about payment allows me to focus on my studies and career goals without the burden of debt. This grant was exciting as the idea of getting financial aid for working in the field I intended to serve is a welcome surprise. I was encouraged to pursue addiction counseling by Dr. Duris early on. I remember thinking at first that this was not the field for me as I have seen addictions front and center in my own family, along with the stress and frustration the individual can bestow upon others. However, seeing counselors work with this population in group-centered settings and hearing the stories of counselors or clients who have gone through this, I found myself more and more intrigued. "



Jacoby Jones
Lewis University Student

ICB INSIGHTS

A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Brian Lengfelder's career is distinguished by his extensive experience and dedication to the behavioral health community.

Holding multiple certifications—including LCPC, CAADC, CCJP, SAP, MAC, CCTP, CSAT-S, CMAT-S, and ACRPS—he has demonstrated a profound commitment to advancing the standards of care in substance use treatment.

Beyond his clinical expertise, Lengfelder has been an active member of the ICB community, contributing to various initiatives aimed at enhancing professional standards and supporting peers in their professional journeys including serving as an ICB Board Member. His involvement in workshops, such as the 2024 session on "Relapse Prevention: The Essential Element for the Treatment of Co-occurring Disorders," highlights his dedication to sharing knowledge and fostering growth within the field.

MENTORSHIP AND ADVOCACY

Lengfelder's impact extends beyond his clinical and educational roles. He has been a steadfast mentor, guiding emerging professionals in the substance use counseling field. His mentorship has been instrumental in shaping the careers of many, providing them with the tools and insights necessary to navigate the complexities of the profession.

A WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION

The Professional of the Year Award is a testament to Brian Lengfelder's dedication, expertise, and service to the behavioral health community. His contributions continue to inspire and elevate the standards of practice within the ICB and the broader field of substance use counseling.

As the ICB celebrates this achievement, it reaffirms its commitment to honoring individuals who exemplify excellence and leadership in the profession. Brian Lengfelder's recognition serves as an inspiration to all who strive to make a meaningful impact in the lives of those affected by substance use disorders.



BRIAN LENGFELDER

**Honored with 2025
Illinois Certification Board
Professional of the Year
Award**



ICB INSIGHTS


INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING OR BEING FEATURED IN THE ICB NEWSLETTER?




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Articles are to include a written statement from the Author giving ICB permission to use the article.

Deadline for articles is January 1st, May 1st and September 1st



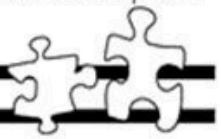
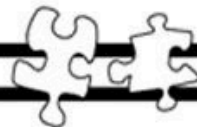
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Get the latest on certifications, field updates, and ICB events right in your feed.



SECURE YOUR SPOT FALL CONFERENCE

October 27-29, 2025 – Northfield Inn,
Suites & Conference Center Springfield,
IL

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