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## 2009 CCAPS Thomas M. Magoon Excellence in Counseling Award

**Alaska Native Rural Outreach Program, the Cama-i Room, and the Counselor-In-Residence**  
University of Alaska Anchorage

Presented at Boston, 2010

The Thomas M. Magoon Excellence in Counseling Award is a Commission for Counseling and Psychological Services award. The award is named for Dr. Tom Magoon who was a much beloved mentor and colleague to so many in our profession. One of the many contributions to our profession included the creation and coordination of an ACPA program, which has been one of the highlights of ACPA conferences since the early 1960s. While the "Innovations" program selects several innovative and fresh programs involving counseling centers, CCAPS has decided to honor one particularly innovative counseling center program each year.

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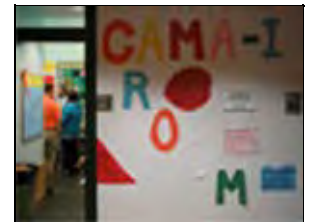
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This year, we are pleased to recognize **Dr. Linda Lazzell, and the University of Alaska Anchorage** for (1) their **Cama-i** (pron.: Cham-eye) Room, (2) the Counselor-In-Residence program, and (3) their Alaska Native Rural Outreach Program. Dr Lazzell, the Vice Chancellor Emerita for Student Affairs at UAA, collaborated with many university departments to develop an outreach program that would respond to the needs of Alaska Native students living in the UAA residence halls. Their research showed that a gap existed between the first-year and second-year retention rates of all university students and Alaska Native students. In addition, their research found that suicide rates for Native Americans were approximately 1.5 times the rates for the general population, particularly among young male Native Americans.

Two outcomes of their research were the development of an Alaska Native Rural Outreach Program, and the allocation of a space named the Cama-i Room to house the program in the residence hall environment. Cama'i is a Yup'ik word (pron.: YOU-pick) for "welcome." According to the ANROP Coordinator, a goal of the program was to create a more inviting atmosphere for the Alaska Native residents so they could be more successful in completing their college education. Additionally, UAA added a Licensed Professional Counselor to the Residence Life staff to serve as a Counselor-In-Residence. The ANROP coordinator, the Counselor-in-Residence, and the other campus mental health professionals currently collaborate to provide mental health services and programs for Alaska Native and rural students to reduce their homesickness, depression, and isolation, and to increase their sense of connection to each other and the greater Alaska Native communities. Dr. Lazzell reports that student response has been overwhelmingly positive. One student offered feedback by stating "that's my village, man. If I'm going to go to my village, I don't have to go far." Another student said that "sometimes you just need to feel at home, especially when this is your state.... You don't see anything reminding you of you."



CCAPS applauds the University of Alaska Anchorage in developing this innovative and culturally relevant program to reach out to a traditionally underserved student population. It is with great pleasure that we award this year's Thomas M. Magoon Award to Dr. Linda Lazzell and the University of Alaska Anchorage

for their Alaska Native Rural Outreach Program, the Cama-i Room, and their Counselor-In-Residence services for Alaska Native students.

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