Adkison-Johnson, C., Burt, I., Owens, D., Steele, J., &Tovar-Murray, D. (2022). Brave souls who dared to dream: 50th anniversary of the *Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development. Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development,* <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/(ISSN)2161-1912.50th-anniversary>

**Brave Souls Who Dared to Dream:** **50th Anniversary of the *Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development***

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June 2022

This year marks two 50th anniversaries: the first for the Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development (JMCD) and the second for the Association of Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD).

The journal began in 1972 as the Journal of Non-White Concerns in Personnel and Guidance (JNWC) under the editorship of Dr. Gloria Smith, who was also the first vice president of the Association of Non-White Concerns (ANWC). According to Dr. Quincy Moore (1992), a former president of AMCD, “The journal started as an idea of a few brave souls who dared to dream” (p. 149).

The civil rights movement was the catalyst for the development of the journal. Pioneers of JNWC demanded equal treatment within the counseling profession and a platform to focus on high-quality research studies, ideas, and innovations that addressed the lived experiences of racial and ethnic minority populations.

The first issue 50 years ago opened with this statement from Dr. Thomas Gunnings (1972):

The Journal of Non-White Concerns is designed to bring to the reader research and practical ideas and innovations related to the interests of non-white individuals. It is our hope that people practicing in the fields of counseling, psychology, guidance, and personnel—at all levels—will find this a handy accumulation of ideas to use in spearheading our attempt to develop dynamic and effective theories and programs that will make life as meaningful and fulfilling for the people we are trying to serve. . . . The ANWC Journal is dedicated to the purpose of facilitating an exchange of ideas among professionals interested in psychological and supportive services for non-whites. The Journal seeks to be a viable vehicle for the proliferation and visibility of thought, position, and research relevant to non-whites. (p. 3)

JNWC evolved during a time of overt racism, White supremacy, and racial unrest in our society. When the journal was first published in 1972, the country was still recovering from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination and the Black Power movement, with its emphasis on racial pride and self-determination, had fully emerged. Scholars and practitioners of color from various helping professions published their writings and research in JNWC that might not have otherwise been recognized in journals within their distinctive disciplines.

In 1985, AMCD, formerly ANWC, voted to change the title of JNWC to the Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development to correspond with the new name of the organization. Dr. Courtland Lee (1985), who was the editor during the transition of the journal, explained,

The name change implies an important new direction for the Journal. This new direction will see the Journal broadening its traditional scope to truly expound ideas related to multicultural experiences in all areas of counseling and human development. The Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development will be the exclusive scholarly domain of no one cultural or ethnic group, but rather will be a forum for all those with new ideas that evolved out of the pluralism that characterizes the counseling profession and the society it serves. As such, authors, regardless of their ethnic or cultural background, with ideas that have the potential to contribute significantly to the growing body of multicultural counseling knowledge, are encouraged to submit their work to this journal. . . . It is anticipated that the Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development will become a major resource for all counselors and related professionals as they confront the myriad challenges inherent in facilitating human development in an increasingly diverse society. (p. 90)

In this virtual 50th anniversary issue, we return to earlier writings published in JMCD that helped establish the vision, research, and practice of multicultural counseling. You will notice the names of several authors whose writings and research redefined the discussions of intelligence, psychological theory, racial identity, counseling competence, and treatment modalities in the helping professions overall and in counselor education.

We hope that revisiting some of JMCD’s historic articles will inspire counselors, supervisors, and counselor educators to utilize and create scholarship that accurately responds to the mental health needs of our diverse society.

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