



MATTHEW E. SPRONG, PHD

CRC, LCPC, CADC, CLCP, CVE, LPC

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor & Evaluator, Life Care Planner

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

PhD in Rehabilitation

Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2014

Masters in Science in Rehabilitation Counseling & Admin., Addiction Studies

Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2011

Bachelor in Science in Psychology, Minor in Speech Communications

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, 2009

Life-Care Planning Pre-Certification Program

Institute of Rehabilitation and Education Training, 2016

Certified Life Care Planner, #1361

International Commission on Health Care Certification

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, #00113999

Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification

Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, #180.008817

Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation

Licensed Professional Counselor, # PC014797

Pennsylvania Department of State Board of Social Workers

Certified Alcohol & Other Drug Counselor, # 29904]: Illinois Alcohol and

other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association

Certified Vocational Evaluation Specialist, #00113999

Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor & Director of Doctor of Public Administration

Program, School of Public Management & Policy, University of Illinois, Springfield, (Fall 2022 – Present)

Assistant Professor & Coordinator of Addiction Program (Remote Position),

Clinical Mental Health Counseling [CACREP-Accredited], Lock Haven University (Fall 2019 – Spring 2022)

Assistant Professor, Rehabilitation Counseling Program, School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions Northern Illinois University (2015 – 2018)

Assistant Professor, Clinical Rehabilitation & Mental Health Program, Department of Rehabilitation Counseling & Human Services, Montana State University – Billings (2014 – 2015)

Adjunct Professor, Rehabilitation Counseling Program, School Allied Health & Communicative Disorders (2014)

Adjunct Professor, Clinical Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling, Department of Counseling and Psychology, Thomas University (2013)

PROFILE

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Life Care Planner & Vocational Evaluator with years of experience working in academics, as well as public and private sector vocational rehabilitation.

CONTACT

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Bellaire, Texas 77401

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Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

CLINICAL & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Life Care Planner, The World of Work, May 2022 to Present

Partner & Rehabilitation Consultant, Oak Leaf Consulting Group, LLC, September 2020 to Current

Supervisory Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, VHA – Vocational Rehabilitation Program and Transitional Residence Program, VA Illiana Health Care System, September 2021 to Present

Rehabilitation Counselor, Compensated Work Therapy Program, Mental Health Services, Veteran's Health Administration, May 2019 – September 2021

President & Rehabilitation Consultant, Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services, Inc., 2012 to 2021

Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant, Applied Vocational Services (AVS) Inc., Carbondale, IL, 2013 to 2014

Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant, Employer's Vocational Resources (EVR), Geneva, IL, 2012 to 2013

Program Evaluator and Vocational/Job Placement Specialist, Evaluation and Developmental Center, Carbondale, IL, 2009 to 2013

Life-skills Instructor, Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM), Herrin, IL, 2010 to 2013

Job Placement Specialist (Internship), Neuro Restorative, Spring 2011

Substance Abuse Counselor (Internship), Gateway Foundation Inc., Carbondale, IL, 2010 to 2011

Job-Skills Specialist (Internship), Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM), January to May 2009

AWARDS

2021 Presidential Award of Recognition, Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals

2020 Max T. Prince Meritorious Service Award, National Rehabilitation Association

2019 Presidential Award of Recognition, International Association of Rehabilitation Professional

2018 Outstanding Professional Award, International Association of Rehabilitation Professional

2018 Sylvia Walker National Multicultural Award, National Rehabilitation Association

2018 Presidential Award of Excellence, Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association

2018 Exemplary Advocate Award, NIU Presidential Commission on Persons with Disabilities

2017 Emerging Professional Award, International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals

2017 Most Valuable Professor, Student nominated (NIU)

2014 NCRE Doctoral Student of the Year Award

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Rehabilitation Association, 2016 to 2021

Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association, 2016 to 2021

International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals, 2015 to Present

National Council of Rehabilitation Educators, 2010 to 2017

American Counseling Association, 2014 to Present

American Rehabilitation Counseling Association, 2014 to 2018

PROFESSIONAL BOARD POSITIONS

Editor-in-Chief, The Rehabilitation Professional, International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (2019 – 2021)

Vice Chair, Chair, Immediate Past Chair [Forensic Board], International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals, 2018-2021

Board Member-at-Large [SSVE], International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals, 2018-2019

President, Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association (VEWAA), 2019

President-elect, President, Immediate Past President, Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association (VEWAA), 2016-2018

President-elect, President, Immediate Past President, International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (IARP) – Illinois Chapter, May 2016 – May 2021

Treasurer, Illinois Chapter – International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (IARP), May 2015 – May 2017

Co-chair, NCRE Council on Distance Education (CDE), 2015 – 2017

Board Member, Coalition of Illinois Counselors Organization (CICO), 2015 – Present

Board Member, Education Committee, Illinois Chapter – International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (IARP), 2015 – 2017

PUBLICATIONS

Sprong, M. E., Hollender, H., Sneed, Z., & Parker, L. (In press). Substance Related Disorder: Treatment and Rehabilitation.

Sprong, M. E., Hollender, H., Rumrill, S., Blankenberger, B., Lee, Y-S., Kriz, K., Weber, K., Gilbert, J., & Buono, F. D. (In Press). Mental health and substance use treatment engagement of veterans referred, enrolled, and discharged from VA healthcare vocational rehabilitation. *Frontiers in Public Health: Substance Use Disorders and Behavioral Addictions*

Sprong, M. E., Tomlin, E., Blazer, S., Porcaro, C., Colby, S., Latham, L., Staley, M., Guzman, E., & Hollender, H. (In press). Utilization of the VA Healthcare system for veterans with and without substance use disorders: Resources for rehabilitation counselors. *Journal of Rehabilitation*.

Sprong, M. E., Blankenberger, B., Pierce, S., & Hollender, H. (In Press). The COVID-19 Pandemic's Influence on Employment Outcomes of Veterans Enrolled in VA Healthcare Vocational Rehabilitation. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*.

PUBLICATIONS

- Buono, F. D., Polonsky, M., **Sprong, M. E.**, Aviles, A., & Cutter, C. J. (2023). Feasibility of a remotely monitored blood alcohol concentration device to facilitate treatment motivations: A pilot study. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dadr.2023.100202>
- Peterson, S, Skerritt, C., **Sprong, M. E.**, & Thomas, L. B. (2023). Individualized plan for employment development for individuals with psychiatric disabilities: Recommendations for state vocational rehabilitation administrators. *The Rehabilitation Professional*, 31(3), 35-52.
- Austin, B. S., Lee, C. L., McCarthy, A., & **Sprong, M. E.** (2023). Importance of clinical judgment skill competencies across practice settings: Certified Rehabilitation Counselors' perceptions. *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling*, 54(2). <https://doi.org/10.1891/JARC-2022-0006>
- Sprong, M. E.**, Hollender, H., Lee, Y., Rawlins-Williams, L., Sneed, Z., Garakani, A., & Buono, F. D. (2023). Disparities in Program Enrollment and Employment Outcomes for Veterans with Psychiatric Disorders and Co-Occurring Alcohol and other Substance Use Disorders Referred to VHA Vocational Rehabilitation. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.3233/WOR-220259>
- Buono, F. D., Polonsky, M., Marks, A., Larkin, K., & **Sprong, M. E.** (2023). Work readiness and barriers to employment during COVID for Individuals with Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1). *Work*. <https://doi.org/10.3233/WOR-220259>
- Sprong, M. E.**, Thomas, L., Fuscaldo, N., Purinton, J., & Oakes, T. (2023). Examination of Vocational Rehabilitation Models Used in Forensic Rehabilitation Settings. *The Rehabilitation Professional*, 31(1), 13-26.
- Sprong, M. E.**, Hollender, H., Pechek, A., Pytel, K., & Buono, F. D., & (2022). Effects of VHA Policy Directive 1163 on Acceptance and Employment Rates for Veterans with Substance Use Disorders Referred to VHA Vocational Rehabilitation. *Substance Abuse: Research & Treatment*, 16, 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1177/11782218221132397>
- Sprong, M. E.**, Hollender, H., Paul, E., Gilbert, J., Weber, K., Garakani, A., & Buono, F. D. (2022). Impact of substance use disorders on employment for veterans. *Psychological Services*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0000690>
- Buono, F. D., Larkin, K., Rowe, D., **Sprong, M. E.**, & Garakani, A. (2021). Intensive dialectical behavior treatment for individuals with borderline personality disorders with and without substance use disorders. *Front. Psychol.*, 12(629842). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.629842>
- Buono, F. D., **Sprong, M. E.**, Paul, E., Martin, S., Larkin, K., & Garakani, A. (2021). The mediating effects of quality of life, depression, and generalized anxiety on perceived work barriers of people diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis Type 1. *Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases*, 16, 234. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13023-021-01866-6>
- Sprong, M. E.**, Buono, F., Brinck, E., Nerlich, A. P., & Hollender, H. (2021). Alcohol-related cause of spinal cord injury and the impact on service recommendations. *Journal of Rehabilitation*, 87(2), 36-42.
- Rubin, J., Brinck, E., Goram, L., & **Sprong, M. E.** (2020). Vocational rehabilitation for people with psychiatric disabilities. *The Rehabilitation Professional*, 28(4), 193-214.
- Shields, J., Pechek, A., Brinck, E., & **Sprong, M. E.** (2020). Strategies for improving employment outcomes of Veterans diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders. *The Rehabilitation Professional*, 28(4), 225-244.

PUBLICATIONS

Aliff, M., & **Sprong, M. E.** (2020). Qualifications for rehabilitation counselors: A social justice issue. *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling, 51*(4), 277-281.

Sprong, M. E., Iwanaga, K., Mikolajczyk, E., Cerrito, B., & Buono, F. D. (2019). The role of disability in the hiring process: Does knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act Matter? *Journal of Rehabilitation, 85*(4), 42-49.

Buono, F. D., Grau, L. E., **Sprong, M. E.**, Moore, B. A., Johnson, K., Barry, D., ..., & Gutmann, D. (2019). Pain symptomology, functional daily impact, and pain management of people with Neurofibromatosis Type 1. *Journal of Pain Research, 12*(12), 2555-2561.

Masood, A. F., Dell, C. A., **Sprong, M. E.**, & Dell, T. F. (2018). Test review: Cognitive Distortion Scale (CDS). *Vocational Evaluation Career Assessment Professional Journal, 13*(2), 33-42.

Sprong, M. E., Dallas, B., Paul, P., & Xia, M. (2018). Rehabilitation technology services and employment outcomes among consumers using Division of Rehabilitation Services. *Disabil Rehabil Assist Technol, 3*, 1-8. doi:[10.1080/17483107.2018.1463400](https://doi.org/10.1080/17483107.2018.1463400)

Moreno-Tucker, V., McCarthy, A. K., & **Sprong, M. E.** (2017). Unrecognized potential: The value of the rehabilitation professional in the transition process. *Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association Journal, 41*(2), 67-77.

Dell, T., & **Sprong, M. E.** (2017). Test Review: Global Appraisal of Individual Needs – Short Screener (V.3.0). *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin, 60*(20), 121-124.

Ysasi, N. A., Marini, I., **Sprong, M.**, & Silva, I. (2016). Differences among life care planners and psychiatrists regarding the likelihood and frequency of secondary complications for persons with spinal cord injury. *Journal of Life Care Planning, 14*(2), 3-37.

Case, J. C., Blackwell, T. L., & **Sprong, M. E.** (2016). Counselor ethical considerations for end-of-life care. *Journal of Rehabilitation, 82*(1), 48-58.

Crtalic, A., Gibbs, R., **Sprong, M. E.**, & Dell, T. (2015). Boundaries with social media: Ethical considerations for rehabilitation counselors. *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling, 46*(3), 44-50.

Austin, B. S., Sabo, C. W., McCarthy, A. K., **Sprong, M. E.**, & Noble, L. N. (2015). Utilization of interviewing as an assessment tool to enhance vocational rehabilitation service delivery: Fostering the therapeutic alliance and professionals' judgment accuracy. [Special issue]. *Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association Journal and Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment Journal, 37-52*.

Hillesheim, C., **Sprong, M. E.**, Dallas, B., Upton, T.D., & Musgrave, J.R. (2013). Falling through the cracks: A screening assessment for student veterans with educational barriers. *Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association Journal, 40*(1), 23-31.

McCabe, M., **Sprong, M. E.**, Dallas, B., Mui, N., & Upton, T. D. (2013). Program effectiveness of vocational evaluation as quantified by the Career Planning Scale. *Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association Journal, 40*(1), 13-22.

PUBLICATIONS

Mui, N., **Sprong, M. E.**, Chowdhury, D., Lee, S., & Flowers, C. (2013). An ethical guide for rehabilitation administrators: Revising the NARL Code of Ethics. *Journal of Rehabilitation Administration*, 37(1), 19-24.

Geiger, J., Sprong, M. E., Kozma, W., & Upton, T. (2012). Predicting driver's licensure using the Ruff 2 & 7 Selective Attention Test. *Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association Journal*, 39(1), 31-35.

TESTIMONY HISTORY

- 8/2011 to 5/2019: Impartial Vocational Expert: Social Security Hearings Office of Hearing Appeals: 8000+ cases Administrative Hearings
- 7/23/2018: Deposition; James Clarke vs. Ladonna Williams; Desoto Cab Company (CGC-16-555466)
- 12/14/2017: IMFR Short-term Disability Case Hearing; David Meimers
- 3/28/2024: Deposition; Kenneth Chambers v. Brock Holdings III, LLC and Michael Arellano; Cause No. 202214014