



## MATTHEW E. SPRONG, PHD

CRC, LCPC, CADC, CLCP, CVE, LPC

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor & Evaluator, Life Care Planner

### EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

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#### **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

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**Assistant Professor**, Health & Human Services, 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

815.993.8724

matthew@theworldofwork.com

6575 West Loop South, Suite 500  
Bellaire, Texas 77401

1333 Burr Ridge Pkwy, Suite 200  
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

## **CLINICAL & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**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**

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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

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**National Rehabilitation Association**, 2016 to Present

**Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association**, 2016 to Present

**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

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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

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

Upton, T. D., Sanchez, J., & **Sprong, M. E.** (In process). *Private Rehabilitation: Evolving Opportunities* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Elliot & Fitzpatrick.

**Sprong, M. E.**, & Davis, S. (2018). *The Substance Related Disorder Assessment: A Road Map to Effective Treatment Planning*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing.

Buono, F. D., Polonsky, M., Marks, A., Larkin, K., & **Sprong, M. E.** (In review). Work readiness and barriers to employment during COVID for Individuals with Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1).

**Sprong, M. E.**, Thomas, L., Fuscaldo, N., Purinton, J., & Oakes, T. (In Press). Examination of Vocational Rehabilitation Models Used in Forensic Rehabilitation Settings.

**Sprong, M. E.**, Hollender, H., & Buono, F. D. (In Review). Employment Rates for Veterans with Psychiatric Disabilities and Substance/Alcohol Use Disorders.

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Sprong, M. E.**, Hollender, H., & Forziat-Pytel, K. (In Review). Impact of COVID-19 on VHA vocational rehabilitation program acceptance and employment rates for Veterans with and without substance and alcohol use disorders.

Austin, B. S., Lee, C. L., McCarthy, A., & **Sprong, M. E.** (In Press). Importance of clinical judgment skill competencies across practice settings: Certified Rehabilitation Counselors' perceptions. *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling*.

**Sprong, M. E.**, Pechek, A., Pytel, K., Buono, F. D., & Hollender, H. (In Press). 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*.

Vincenzes, K., Pechek, A., Romero-Lucero, L., & **Sprong, M. E.** (In Press). Counselor trainees' development of self-efficacy in an online skills course. *The Journal of Counselor Preparation and Supervision*.

Hammond, F. M., Li, F., Neumann, D., Trexler, L. E., **Sprong, M. E.**, & Dixon, B. (In Press). Relationship of Opioid and Benzodiazepine Co-Prescription with Opioid Use Disorder and Emergency Department Admission for Opioid Poisoning after Traumatic Brain Injury. *The Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*

**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>

**Sprong, M. E.**, Chamarro, A., Polonsky, M., Pechek, A. A., Pilcher, C., Griffiths, M. D., & Buono, F. D. (2022). The Spanish version of the Video Game Functional Assessment – Revised. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*. Doi: 10.1089/cyber.2021.0325

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. doi: 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.

Nerlich, A., Wrobbel, E. D., Bosley, A. A., & **Sprong, M. E.** (2020). Nonverbal behavior, disability presentation, and impression formation: Implications for the rehabilitation professional. *The Rehabilitation Professional*, 28(4), 177-192.

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.

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

## PUBLICATIONS

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**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), 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 physiatrists 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.

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.