

SCRA Community Psychology Practice Council

Community Psychology Practitioner Profiles Project

Scott Wituk, Ph.D.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Job Title	Director
Workplace	Center for Community Support & Research, Wichita State University
Location	Wichita, Kansas
Email Address	scott.wituk@wichita.edu
Website	http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/home/?u=ccsr
Professional Affiliations	SCRA

Please describe the work you do, for pay, as a community psychologist, including the setting(s) where you work?

Director of the Center for Community Support & Research (CCSR) at Wichita State University. As the Director of the Center for Community Support and Research, I oversee all activities and services, budget, and operations. I have been with CCSR for nearly 20 years. I'm committed to creating thriving and supportive communities and organizations and have background in community leadership, organizational capacity building, and applied research and evaluation methods. I work with a variety of nonprofit organizations, community coalitions, government entities, mental health consumer organizations, and self-help support groups.

What training/education do you have in community psychology?

PhD in Community Psychology from Wichita State University

Please describe how your training/education contributed to your work as a community psychologist. What do you view as the most important skills you learned in your training as a community psychologist.

An opportunity to work with others on a variety of applied, “real world” projects during my graduate training/education, including:

- An evaluation of a statewide leadership initiative designed to strengthen community leadership programs
- A Stanford University School of Medicine multicenter trial of support groups for breast cancer patients
- Project ACCESS, a federally funded project to integrate systems of treatment, supportive services, and housing for homeless persons with severe mental illness

These experiences and others like them, provided a foundation for understanding how initiatives/projects are developed and implemented, including the variety of factors that influence progress.

What other experiences or training have contributed to or enhanced your ability to work as a community psychologist?

None come to mind, although my work as a community psychologist influences every aspect of who I am and vice versa.

What advice might you give to students or people considering community psychology as a career?

- Recognize what you are passionate about
- Get involved in projects, initiatives that are related to your passion
- Lasting change takes time, but progress can be made
- Get experiences in applied evaluation methods, grant development, working in and leading teams, collaboration

Is there anything else you would like to say about your role as a community psychology practitioner?

There are many opportunities to make progress on issues one cares about. Those opportunities are sometimes presented, but also one has to make those

opportunities happen. As a community psychology practitioner, I and others get to play a role in creating opportunities for progress and change.

Key Words: Director, University, Nonprofits, Coalitions, Government entities

State/Country: Kansas, United States

Primary Place of Employment: Wichita State University

Areas of Practice Expertise: Community leadership, coalition building, organizational capacity building, management of center