

Nomination of:

Mark Pope, Ed.D.

Professor of Counseling
Division of Counseling and Family Therapy

College of Education
University of Missouri—St. Louis
One University Boulevard (469 MH)
St. Louis, MO 63121
314.516.7121
POPE@UMSL.EDU
WEBSITE: WWW.UMSL.EDU/~POPE

For the: Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Service
2008

Nominated by: R. Rocco Cottone, Ph.D. Professor of
Counseling and Family Therapy, Division of Counseling
and Family Therapy, UM-St. Louis (469 MH).
314.516.6094. E-mail: COTTONE@UMSL.EDU

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LETTER OF NOMINATION (3 pages)

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R. ROCCO COTTONE, PH.D.

PROFESSOR

DIVISION OF COUNSELING AND FAMILY THERAPY

University of Missouri-St. Louis

One University Boulevard (469 MH)

St. Louis, MO 63121-4499 USA

Phone: 314.516.6094 Fax: 314.516.5784

4-15-08

To: Faculty Teaching and Service Awards Committee of the Faculty Senate of the University of Missouri—St. Louis

From: R. Rocco Cottone, Nominator

RE: Mark Pope's Nomination for the UM-St. Louis "Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Service."

Dear Professors:

Dr. Mark Pope is a person with a sense of obligation to others. He exemplifies the word "humanitarian." He is committed to the University of Missouri - St. Louis, the profession of counseling, and to the betterment of those served by professional counselors and the University. He is an advocate for those in need, and he is tireless in his efforts to ensure rights for those who are disenfranchised. It is with great pleasure that I nominate him for the University of Missouri - St. Louis Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Service.

Dr. Pope is an outstanding faculty member. He is nationally and internationally recognized, and his presence on our faculty has literally "put" the Division of Counseling and Family Therapy and its programs "on the map" of professional recognition. Beyond his service work, his scholarly work is groundbreaking, and he has established a reputation as a fine historian and chronicler of contemporary issues in his field. Mark has the ability to communicate. He has great ideas, and he is able to disseminate them to wide audiences. He has already made the College of Education and the Division "proud" with his work as a scholar, but his service work to the professional is unrivaled. He is an outspoken advocate for the disenfranchised. I had the honor of being present to see him receive an award last year from the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association – he was honored for his aggressive defense of programs for individuals with disabilities. He was viewed as a hero by many in the Association for his stand against an effort to divest rehabilitation programs. And of course he is best known for his work addressing multicultural career counseling, and specifically addressing the needs of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals. He has taken leadership roles in a number

of professional organizations, including the American Counseling Association (ACA), the American Psychological Association (APA), and the National Career Development Association. He has been recognized numerous times for his work for these associations, typically related to his advocacy and contributions to the area of human rights. He won the ACA Kitty Cole Human Rights Award in 2001. In 2004 he won both the Lakota Peace Medal of the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling, and the Cesar Chavez Servicio a Otros Award of the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development. These are just a few of his awards. He is recognized for his efforts, because he is not afraid to take a stand, and he does so in a way that challenges others to think “out of the box” of tradition. He has also received several awards for his service contributions specifically to the profession of counseling—for example, in 2001 he won the California Career Development Association’s Lifetime Achievement in Career Development Award.

As a colleague in the Division, he is tireless. I am amazed at the sheer quantity of his work. He directed the Division’s first self study for accreditation (in 2000/2001) at a time when no other faculty member was willing to make the effort. He carried a heavy load the year of the accreditation review, and in the end, the Division was successful in achieving professional accreditation of its programs. As chair of the Division, he coordinated the subsequent accreditation review, and the Division has been told that it met every criterion for re-accreditation (in 2007/2008). He has been an exemplary departmental citizen, taking on administrative responsibilities and excelling at carrying out his duties. It is obvious that he is deeply committed to the Division, to the College of Education, and to the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He wants the Division’s programs to be outstanding, and he wants recognition for the University of Missouri-St. Louis. To this end, he has taken the helm and is now the Chair of the Division of Counseling and Family Therapy. Since he began chairing the Division in August 2006, he has begun to steer the Division toward greater clarity in its mission and to attainable goals related to the nature and quality of programs.

Dr. Pope recently chaired the UM-St. Louis Curriculum and Instruction Committee in 2006/2007. As most senators know, the Senate Curriculum and Instruction Committee requires much time and effort and it also requires leadership to ensure that proposals are reviewed and presented to the Senate in a timely and fair way. He did a fine job in this very demanding committee chair position. And he continues to be a Senator, representing the Division of Counseling and Family Therapy and the College of Education. He was elected to the Steering Committee, and he is presently serving in his third term. He was re-elected to the Senate in 2008 by his colleagues in the Division.

For the College of Education, he was the Bridge Program Review Team Chair in 2007, providing a thorough and informative review of this major grant program.

As President of the American Counseling Association (ACA) in 2004 he achieved what no other faculty in the history of our Division has ever achieved. He was the leader of the largest professional counseling association in the world (with 50,000 members). Few of our colleagues in the whole University of Missouri system have received such broad political recognition from their colleagues. And he performed his duties as President of the ACA competently and with honor. While he was President of the ACA, he did not shirk his University duties. In fact, he maintained a teaching load, edited the Division’s newsletter, coordinated the master’s degree comprehensive examination, and all the while traveled around the globe representing both the profession of counseling and the University of Missouri—St. Louis. He preceded his ACA

presidency with the presidency of the National Career Development Association (a smaller but highly influential professional association) in 1998-1999.

His current journal editorship of the *Career Development Quarterly* is a feather in his cap and reflects his stature in the field. The journal is considered high quality (Tier I), and past journal editors constitute a group of “Who’s Who?” in the career counseling area. He is in a position to directly affect scholarship in his field, and he is fair, exacting, and committed to high standards as he serves in this capacity. His editorship also reflects very well on our campus, as the journal is well-known and highly cited. Editorship of such a visible and respected journal is a representation to the community of his service commitment to his profession – and the “University of Missouri-St. Louis” appears under his name on every journal issue masthead.

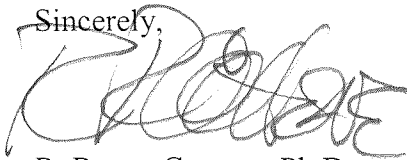
Not only is he an outstanding scholar and campus citizen, but he is an excellent teacher as well. He is at the top of the Division in terms of teaching ratings and student respect. He is a sought after advisor. His office is right next to mine, so I know he is very available, as he is almost always in his office and he has an open door policy to students. He has the students’ interests at heart. He has the enviable combination of skills that is ideal for professors of counseling.

His Curriculum Vitae numbers over 50 pages, with so many entries that this letter cannot do justice to his service and professional career. Please refer to his Vitae, which is included in this nomination packet.

I cannot think of a more deserving person for the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Service. I have attempted to address some of his major accomplishments in this letter. In sum, he is an outstanding faculty member who shows strength in teaching, scholarship, and especially service. His service-related accomplishments are unmatched by any faculty member I have known, and I am proud to be his colleague.

Without reservation and with great pride, I recommend him to you for the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Rocco Cottone". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

R. Rocco Cottone, Ph.D.
Professor

Mark Pope, Ed.D.

Professor of Counseling
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**NOMINEE'S STATEMENT OF
PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY OF SERVICE**

(3 pages)

Nominee's Statement of Personal Philosophy of Service

Mark Pope, Ed.D.

By now you have read my curriculum vita and have seen that representation of my life. And some questions may be rising up within you. Why does he do all this? What drives him? What motivates him? What keeps him going?

I am afraid that I am not very sophisticated in my service philosophy. I simply have always wanted to help others who were less fortunate. It arose from my family and native American culture. It arose from growing up as a poor, gay Cherokee boy in rural southeast Missouri. It came from my Baptist preacher grandfather and my shoe factory worker grandmother. It arose from my feeling different from the others and, even though I was well liked, I saw the hypocrisy of some and the goodness of others and both in many.

It arose from my mother's dogged pursuit of a college education and graduation finally when she was 35 years old. It came from my father's eleventh grade education and his work in the factory and finally as a barber, always wanting to be more. It arose from being the eldest of four sons, taught that it was my responsibility to take care of my brothers, even to this day.

It arose from my experiences as a freshman in college in 1969-1970 and watching the killings of students at Jackson State and Kent State. It came from reading about Martin Luther King and Mohandas Ghandi and watching on

television the peaceful sit-ins to break the color barrier in the United States. It arose from my belief in the Bill of Rights as the most important document in the founding of our nation. It arose from my belief that no person should ever lack the basics of life -- food, shelter, medical care, education.

It was reflected in my passionate career decisions - counseling and psychology at the graduate level and political science and sociology at the undergraduate level. It arose from my travels in the US and Asia as I observed the abject poverty of many and the great wealth of some.

It came from my consulting work with corporations like Bechtel Engineering, Apple, Hewlett-Packard, AT&T, and others, where I wanted to bring humanity into the corporate world because I observed sometimes inhumane practices that can wad people up like a used piece of paper and throw them away just six months before they reach their retirement.

It arose from my work in urban schools with students who simply had no hope for a way out. It came from watching my partner of 13 years die of HIV and having a government tell us that our relationship was not worthy of their designation "marriage."

It arose from my study of history and the overall movement toward progress, but with full knowledge of the human costs in the details of such progress.

I am quite pleased to have found a place here at the University of Missouri – Saint Louis that values a person with these beliefs, with such a philosophy.

I began on my path of service as an idealist. But now, I am an idealist with practical political skills honed over years of struggle. Because of all that and so much more, I am driven to serve, to make a difference in whatever ways I am able as long as I am here. I simply cannot imagine living a life without service. Oscar Wilde stated that "the unexamined life is not worth living." I would modify that for, in my worldview, "a life without service to others is not worth living."

I am honored to simply have been nominated for such an important award by my colleagues here at the University of Missouri – Saint Louis who have been closely observing my work over these past years. To me, it is a reaffirmation of what I believe and my chosen path of service.