



## **Second National Conference for Leaders of Addiction Services (NCLAS), a Great Success**

By Laura Tierney

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Partners for Recovery Initiative (PFR) held the second National Conference for Leaders of Addiction Services (NCLAS), in Washington, DC at the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel on August 5-7, 2007.

The NCLAS was held to honor the 2006 graduates of the PFR and Addiction Technology Transfer Centers (ATTC) Leadership Institutes (LIs). The LI's were established in 2003 as a 6 month program designed to develop leadership within the substance use disorders field. The goal of the program is to develop a cadre of leaders to build a better workforce, advance knowledge adoption, forge partnerships, and enhance cultural appropriateness. LI graduates who attend NCLAS are given the opportunity to continue building their leadership skills through speaker presentations, workshops, and networking activities.

Held over one and a half days, the 2007 NCLAS consisted of key speaker presentations, workshops, networking activities, and a graduate poster session

of final projects. To continue the growth of leadership, this year's conference theme was "*Illuminating the Path to Creative Leadership.*" Many of the highlights included presentations by the Vice President for the University of Toyota, Mike Morrison, Ph.D.; Director of the Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA, Kathryn Power, M.Ed.; USDA Graduate School consultant, Nancy Rosenshine, M.S.; as well as a variety of workshops.

The keynote speaker, Mike Morrison, is well known for his research on values-based leadership and lean thinking. Through his research he has revealed core strategies that are key to maximizing human potential. Mr. Morrison's presentation was both powerful and inspiring.



Mike Morrison, PhD

Kathryn Power, M.Ed. provided the plenary session on the second day and gave a wonderful presentation titled “Transformational Leadership: The One Thing You Should Know.” Through her presentation, she defined transformation and leadership, discussed the difference between leadership and management, and the role of leadership in transformation.

Nancy Rosenshine, addressed the group on two occasions. For her first presentation, Ms. Rosenshine spoke about how to be an effective leader and also reviewed the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator test to show graduates the different personality types that define a good leader. Ms. Rosenshine also assisted in closing the conference by providing an address to the graduates focusing on leadership and mentoring skills.

In addition to the inspirational speakers, attendees participated in advanced skill building workshops. Attendees had the option of participating in one of three 6-hour continuing workshops, or two of the seven 3-hour workshops. At the end of each 6-hour workshop, participants were asked to develop an outcome plan.



The three 6-hour continuing workshops offered included:

1. Mentoring/Coaching
2. Change Management/Team Building
3. Creative Problem Solving

The seven 3-hour workshops offered included:

1. Dealing with Retention and Burnout: An Organizational Learning Approach
2. Dealing with Retention and Burnout: Who’s Looking Out for Me?
3. Leadership and Diversity Panel
4. Resolving Interpersonal Conflict
5. Leadership and the Bottom Line
6. Innovation Theater: Achieving Mastery
7. Leading the Implementation of Evidence-Based Practice (EBP)

According to conference evaluations, participants were very pleased with the NCLAS, and were enriched by the

workshops. Surveyed LI graduates also gave high marks to the LI program experience, overwhelmingly support the continuation of the program, and would recommend the LI program to other emerging leaders in the field.

Overall, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Conference for Leaders of Addiction Services was a success. Additionally, speakers and workshops provided extremely useful information for graduates to take back and apply to their professional and personal lives.