



Academic Credit as a Springboard to Peer Career Development



Jessica Wolf, PhD

Jessica Wolf is Principal of Decision Solutions, a consulting practice focusing on behavioral health workforce development, especially peer education, training and employment. Dr. Wolf served as Coordinator of the Housatonic Community College MERGE Mental Health Certificate Program from 1992-2008, creating and teaching courses and advising students. She also served as a Regional Administrator for the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and as Director of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Education and Training Division. Jessica holds a Bachelor's Degree from Wellesley College and Master's and Doctoral degrees in political science and public administration from Yale University, undertook postdoctoral training that included clinical experience, and is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Yale School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry. She is author and co-author of numerous articles and book chapters on behavioral health topics. She has personal and family experience of mental health conditions.



Carolyn Harmon, PhD

Carolyn Harmon is an independent scholar and resource to families with members who have mental health issues. She has extensive experience in mental health policy research, program design and evaluation, as well as, like many of us, acquaintance with problems in life with serious mental illness; she has a diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder II. Among many positions, she served as a national consultant on Early Childhood Development for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Connecticut Department of Mental Health (DMH) Director of Quality Assurance in the Southwestern Region; DMH Director of Information Technology and Analysis, and Director of Evaluation for the DMH Center for Learning. Her work in these positions was directly related to peer career development. She comments that her lived experience of mental illness was extremely helpful in conducting her work, though she found it not very helpful in conducting her life. Carolyn holds a Bachelor's Degree in international relations from the University of Oklahoma and Master's and Doctoral degrees in political science from Yale University. She also undertook a post-doctoral fellowship in psychology at Yale, which she found most valuable in later work concerning child and adult mental health.