

Counseling Journal Led by Department Chair Now Tops in Field

Boca Raton, Fla. (July 20, 2016) – The American Counseling Association recently ranked a journal edited by an FAU professor as No. 1 by impact factor in the field of counseling. Since 2012, Paul Peluso, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Counselor Education, has served as editor of [*Measurement and Evaluation in Counseling and Development*](#).



“It has been exciting to see this process from beginning to end and to be able to set the bar high for research integrity and publication,” he said.

“The resulting impact factor and the fact that we are the highest ranked journal for the American Counseling Association is a testament to the team effort that the editorial board has put in.”

Peluso counts helping guide and shape articles from their initial submission to the point where they are publishable as the most valuable aspect of his role as an editor.

With manuscripts from China, Taiwan, Turkey, the Middle East, Europe and the U.S., Peluso is struck by the common challenges in understanding the educational and psychological issues facing individuals and children worldwide.

Peluso’s own research involves looking at the therapeutic relationship between a counselor and a client. He focuses on the verbal and non-verbal emotional elements to determine the quality of the relationship. The therapeutic relationship is the single greatest predictor of success in therapy, yet very few people study it observationally, he noted.

In his lab, undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students undergo rigorous training in behavioral coding. The team then applies the dynamical systems mathematical models in order to predict success or failure in counseling.