Susan Sherman, PhD

Susan G. Sherman, PhD, CPM, CFRC, LPC is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation Studies. She joined ECU as an assistant professor in January 2016 after she completed his PhD in Rehabilitation Counselor Education at Michigan State University. Dr. Sherman is also the director of the Rehabilitation and Career Counseling program. Dr. Sherman spent much of her career in Georgia working at Rehabilitation facilities in the state and then becoming the State of Georgia’s first State Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator working in the Governor’s office. She then moved on to become the District Director and finally Regional Director for the State’s Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Dr. Sherman is currently president of the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification Board of Directors. She brings a wealth experience and knowledge with her to ECU and her Department. Her research involves investigating factors that influence successful outcomes in state Vocational Rehabilitation Programs.

What do you like best about working at ECU?

I love working with the master’s students and watching them develop in critical thinking skills that will be needed in the field once they graduate. I also enjoy working with the doctoral students as they develop into researchers and professors. Our students will have so much to offer, as they prepare to enter the profession in the various positions they will obtain.

What do you find most exciting about your research and its potential?

The research I am working on has the potential to make an important impact on the field of rehabilitation counseling. The research seeks to discover the factors that influence successful outcomes in State-Federal Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Programs. These programs work with people with disabilities. This research has the potential to influence educational requirements of staff employed by VR agencies. My hope is that the research we are engaged in will positively impact the federal allotments that go into such programs, as well as providing additional funding for educating counselors at the master’s level.

What excites you about teaching?

I love bringing the material alive for students through stories and activities. Seeing the light bulbs go off when students match the material being taught to real world concepts that influence practice excites me. I also enjoy the art and performance of teaching.

What do you hope students take away from their experiences from working with you on your research?
I enjoy seeing students finding out how to be able to bring their own research ideas alive. They are also learning to read and utilize the literature in the field, and understanding how research questions influence the methodology used for research projects.

**What is your favorite teaching or research moment?**

When it all comes together! Seeing students understand how what we are researching or studying makes sense and how those ideas can influence real world activities.