



Research Funding Impact: Testimonials on NCTRC® Contributions and Support

National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification® (NCTRC) has awarded full or partial funding to 13 research projects since the program's inception in 2022. Read the testimonials below to see what researchers are saying about the funding they received from NCTRC and how it impacted their research projects.

NCTRC is proud to offer this program which seeks to open new doors for current RT practitioners as well as those pursuing careers in the field. [Go to NCTRC.org](https://nctrc.org) to learn more.

Emily Higgins, CTRS

[Recreational therapy students' learning experiences of facility dog usage: A focus group study](#)

"I'm truly grateful to have received a grant from the NCTRC Research Grant Program in 2023 for my research on the use of facility dogs in recreational therapy educational settings. The NCTRC Research Grant Program provided essential funding that supported the development and expansion of our facility dog study. This grant allowed us to explore the integration of facility dogs into Recreational Therapy education and healthcare settings, leading to the creation of a comprehensive 10-step model. It has also enabled further research into the impact of facility dogs on students' learning experiences in community-based therapeutic programs.

I appreciate the support from NCTRC and the opportunity to contribute to advancing recreational therapy practices. This experience has allowed me to collaborate with amazing colleagues at UWL, and I'm excited about the potential impact this research will have on inclusive therapeutic approaches!"

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Jamie R. Bennett MS., MTRS, CTRS

Rhonda Nelson, Ph.D., MTRS, CTRS, MT-BC, FDRT

[Addressing Mental Health in College Students with an RT-Focused Podcast Intervention](#)

"The NCTRC Research Grant Program was instrumental in developing and evaluating an innovative podcast-based recreational therapy intervention that addresses the growing mental health crisis on college campuses. This support enabled us to expand the boundaries of how recreational therapy services can be delivered, demonstrating that RT professionals can effectively support college student mental health through accessible, technology-based interventions. The grant not only advanced our understanding of novel RT service delivery methods but also positioned recreational therapy as a vital contributor to addressing urgent mental health needs in higher education".

Ivanka Simić Stanojević, MS

[Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Recreational Therapists Perspectives](#)

"The NCTRC Research Grant Program was instrumental in my doctoral dissertation, enabling me to explore how to better support the sexual health of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in recreational therapy settings. This funding not only facilitated the measurement of recreational therapists' self-efficacy in providing LGBTQ+-affirmative services but also equipped me with insights into their support needs and training recommendations, ultimately paving the way for my Ph.D. and future research endeavors".