

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.  
Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.**

NAME: Chrisann Schiro-Geist

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): N/A

POSITION TITLE: Professor and Director

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois	Ph.D.	1974	Counseling Psychology
Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois	M.Ed.	1970	Counseling and Guidance,
Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois	B.S.	1967	Biology Major, English Minor

**NOTE: The Biographical Sketch may not exceed five pages. Follow instructions below.**

#### A. Personal Statement

Chrisann Schiro-Geist, Ph.D. (Principal Investigator). Dr. Schiro-Geist received her Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Northwestern University in 1974. She has been a licensed clinical psychologist and a certified rehabilitation counselor for nearly 40 years. She has authored over 80 articles in refereed journals and hundreds of presentations focusing her primary research on rehabilitation counseling. She has been awarded over 26 million dollars in grant money. She has received over 50 honors, awards, and recognitions, including the Rank of Fellow from the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association in 2020. Dr. Schiro-Geist has been the director of UMID since its inception in 2007, where she has overseen the expansion of program operations into the areas of transition and vocational training. Recent work experiences include Senior Vice-Provost at the U. of M., Director of Disability and Rehabilitation Education and Training, and Director of Disability Research Institute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Schiro-Geist has worked in the area of “transition to work” for persons with disabilities since the early 1980s. She worked in cooperation with Dr. Frank Rusch of the University of Illinois Transitions Institute in delivering technical assistance on the then newly created Place/Train model of supported employment. In this role, she worked as a consultant and trainer on a national grant from the Department of Education. She was PI on several RSA-funded long-term training grants, including an Experimental and Innovative Grant to co-train master’s level students in Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling to become Transition Counselors. Dr. Schiro-Geist was also a major subcontractor in the delivery of TA to Community Rehabilitation programs as part of the RRCEP for CRPs at the University of Wisconsin at Stout under Dr. Fred Menz. In that Regional Training model, she created and delivered technical assistance and training to community providers in Region V while in her position as Director of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

As early as 1993, she was awarded a World Rehabilitation Fellowship to study distance education models in Australia, bringing those methods to some of the earliest fruition in the Rehabilitation Counseling field. She has a proven record of expert teaching, research, service delivery, and leadership. She is the Editor of the Journal of Forensic Vocational Analysis and is the immediate past president of the American Board of

Vocational Experts (ABVE). She has been awarded multiple awards, including the National Council on Rehabilitation Education for the distinguished Career in Rehabilitation Education Award in 2009, the Clayton Morgan Memorial Award of Excellence for leadership and contributions to the field of Rehabilitation Counseling in 2012, the West Tennessee Counseling Association Counselor Educator of the year award in 2014, the Presidential Citation from the American Board of Vocational Experts for her support and outstanding contributions in 2015, the Scott E. Streamer Learning and Educational Award in recognition of her contributions and service as Editor of the Journal of Forensic Vocational Analysis in 2016. She is also a distinguished member of the VRCC, a panel representing all the major Rehabilitation organizations, including CSAVR, NCSAB, NRA, NRCA, ABVE, and other major national organizations.

## **B. Positions and Honors**

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

2007 - Present            Professor and Director of Institute on Disability University of Memphis Institute on Disability (UMID)

2007 - 2004            Senior Vice Provost, Academic Affairs, & Professor, Counseling, Educational Psychology & Research, University of Memphis

2003 - 2004            Director, Disability and Rehabilitation Education and Training, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement and Institutional Relations, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

2000 - 2004            Director, Disability Research Institute, College of Applied Life Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

1993 - 2004            Professor, Department of Community Health, College of Applied Life Studies, (UIUC)

1987 - 1993            Associate Professor with tenure, UIUC, Director of Graduate Studies and Supervisor of Counseling and Testing Services, Division of Rehabilitation Education Services (DRES).

1981 - 1987            Associate Professor of Psychology with tenure at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). Director of Rehabilitation Programs.

1975 - 1981            Assistant Professor of Psychology (IIT)

## **C. Contribution to Science**

**BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS:** Over 80 articles in refereed journals; 3 books and 4 book chapters with the following selected Peer-Reviewed Publications / Peer-Reviewed Books and Book Chapters

- Yu, X., Schiro-Geist, C., Zhang, X., Krolik, P., Cai, J., & Harms, B. A. (in press). A moderate caseload among vocational rehabilitation counselors achieved the best closure rates for clients with disabilities. *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling*.
- Yu, X., Schiro-Geist, C., Zhang, X., Krolik, P., Cai, J., Harms, B. A., & Tippireddy, J. R. The Impact of Caseload on Case Closure Rates for Clients with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. *Journal of Forensic Vocational Analysis*. Vol 24(1),6-22
- Yu, X., Schiro-Geist, C., Zhang, X., Krolik, P., Cai, J., Goodwill, M., & Tippireddy, J. R. (2024). Differences in the Quality of Employment Placement for Vocational Rehabilitation Clients with Disabilities by Counselor's Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Status. *Journal of Forensic Vocational Analysis*. Vol 24(2),5-19.
- Yu, X., Schiro-Geist, C., Zhang, X., Krolik, P., & Cai, J. (in press). Disparities in subminimum wage employment among vocational rehabilitation clients: Roles of vocational rehabilitation counselors. *The Journal of Rehabilitation*.
- Yu, X., Schiro-Geist, C., Zhang, X., Krolik, P., Cai, J., Tippireddy, J. R., & Nandiki, S. (in press). CRC differences in the quality of employment placement for vocational rehabilitation clients with disabilities between counselors with a certification in rehabilitation counseling versus counselors without the certification. *Journal of Rehabilitation Bulletin*.

**D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance**

- 2024, Auz, L., Clift, C., Dumlao, K., Dunn, A. R., Roberts, K., Sandino, M., Schiro-Geist, C., Baichu, J., & Coss, V. (2024). *Access for All: Expanding Museum Accessibility in Shelby County*. [Grant funded by the Art and Health Research Team (AhRT)]. Institute of Art and Health, University of Memphis, TN
- 2023, Cai, j., Horn, A., Schiro-Geist, C., (2023) *Mindful Music with TigerLIFE* [Grant funded by the Art and Health Research Team (AhRT)]. Institute of Art and Health, University of Memphis, TN
- 2023, "TN BELIEVES." Principal Investigator, Tennessee Department of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, \$375,000
- 2019 - Principal investigator, Project FIRST (Finding Innovative Rehabilitation Services Training). Department of Education Grant CFDA NO.84.263 C, \$1,974,264 or 5 years, 2019-2024
- 2018 - "Minority fellowship in disability studies, a subcontract from University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center \$22,000
- 2017- University of Memphis College of Education Research Grant: "Developing credentials for rehabilitation counseling professionals" with Michael Mackay \$6000
- 2015 - BRIDGE (Building Resources for persons with Intellectual Disabilities toward Gainful Employment), Department of Education, \$1.6 million
- 2003 - Rehabilitation Research Institute for Under-Represented Populations; sub-contract from Southern University, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, \$175,000 (5 years)
- 2000 - U.S. Social Security Administration, Office of Policy, Disability Research Institute. Co-Investigator. \$18.3 million through July 31, 2005.