

Faculty Profile Questionnaire

Name: Dr. Matthew E. Sprong

Title: Department Chair & Associate Professor

Degrees: Ph.D. in Rehabilitation; M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling & Administration, specialization in Addiction Studies; B.S. in Psychology

Year began at Governors State: Spring 2025

Teaching Experience Prior to Governors State:

- Assistant Professor & Director of Doctor of Public Administration
School of Public Management & Policy
University of Illinois Springfield
- Assistant Professor
Department of Counseling & Social Work
Lock Haven University
- Assistant Professor
School of Allied Health
Northern Illinois University

Research focus areas (three to four):

1. Veteran Community Reintegration
2. Neurofibromatosis
3. Employment and Economic Security
4. Vocational Rehabilitation
5. Substance Use Disorders and/or Psychiatric Disorders
6. Disability Equity in Post-Secondary Education
7. Video Gaming Functional Assessment

Professional Board Positions

- **Secretary**, Rehabilitation Counselors & Educators Association [RCEA], National Rehabilitation Association, 2025 – Current
- **Vice Chair, Chair, Immediate Past Chair** [Forensic Board], International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals, 2018-2021
- **Board Member-at-Large** [SSVE], International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals, 2018-2019
- **President**, Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association (VEWAA), 2019

- **President-elect, President, Immediate Past President**, Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association (VEWAA), 2016-2018
- **President-elect, President, Immediate Past President**, International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (IARP) – Illinois Chapter, May 2016 – May 2021
- **Treasurer**, Illinois Chapter – International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (IARP), May 2015 – May 2017
- **Co-chair**, NCRE Council on Distance Education (CDE), 2015 – 2017
- **Board Member**, Coalition of Illinois Counselors Organization (CICO), 2015 – Present
- **Board Member**, Education Committee, Illinois Chapter – International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (IARP), 2015 – 2017

Selected Publications:

- **Sprong, M. E.**, Hollender, H., Formigoni, M., Parker-Barnes, L., & Sneed, Z. (2025). *The Substance-Related Disorder: Treatment & Rehabilitation*. Kendall Hunt Publishing.
- **Sprong, M. E.**, & Davis, S. (2018). *The Substance-Related Disorder Assessment: A Road Map to Effective Treatment Planning*. Kendall Hunt Publishing.
- **Sprong, M. E.**, Hollender, H., Lee, Y-S., Forziat-Pytel, K., Dooley, T., & Buono, F. D. (2025). Effects of COVID-19 on enrollment and discharge for veterans (with substance use disorders) referred to vocational rehabilitation within the VA Healthcare System. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*, 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00343552251320950>
- **Sprong, M. E.**, Hollender, H., Rumrill, S., Blankenberger, B., Lee, Y-S., Kriz, K., Weber, K., Gilbert, J., & Buono, F. D. (2024). The Road to Reintegration: Evaluating the Effectiveness of VA Healthcare in Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Retention for Veterans with Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders. *Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation*, 15, 107-123. <https://doi.org/10.2147/SAR.S462882>
- **Sprong, M. E.**, Tomlin, E., Blazer, S., Porcaro, C., Colby, S., Latham, L., Staley, M., Guzman, E., & Hollender, H. (2024). Utilization of the VA Healthcare system for veterans with and without substance use disorders: Resources for rehabilitation counselors. *Journal of Rehabilitation*, 89(4), 46-58.

- **Sprong, M. E.,** Mamboleo, G., Fullmer, L., Green, K., & Hollender, H. (2024). Disability-related equity gaps in post-secondary education. *The Rehabilitation Professional*, 32(1), 43-56.
- **Sprong, M. E.,** Blankenberger, B., Pierce, S., & Hollender, H. (2024). The COVID-19 Pandemic's Influence on Employment Outcomes of Veterans Enrolled in VA Healthcare Vocational Rehabilitation. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, 60(3) 379-388.
<https://doi.org/10.3233/JVR-230065>
- **Sprong, M. E.,** Hollender, H., Lee, Y., Rawlins-Williams, L., Sneed, Z., Garakani, A., & Buono, F. D. (2023). Disparities in Program Enrollment and Employment Outcomes for Veterans with Psychiatric Disorders and Co-Occurring Alcohol and other Substance Use Disorders Referred to VHA Vocational Rehabilitation. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 76(4).
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2023.1200450>
- **Sprong, M. E.,** Hollender, H., Pechek, A., Pytel, K., & Buono, F. D., & (2022). Effects of VHA Policy Directive 1163 on Acceptance and Employment Rates for Veterans with Substance Use Disorders Referred to VHA Vocational Rehabilitation. *Substance Abuse: Research & Treatment*, 16, 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1177/11782218221132397>
- **Sprong, M. E.,** Hollender, H., Paul, E., Gilbert, J., Weber, K., Garakani, A., & Buono, F. D. (2023). Impact of substance use disorders on employment for veterans. *Psychological Services*, 20(Suppl 2), 222–231. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0000690>
- **Sprong, M. E.,** Chamarro, A., Polonsky, M., Pechek, A. A., Pilcher, C., Griffiths, M. D., & Buono, F. D. (2022). The Spanish version of the Video Game Functional Assessment – Revised. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*.
<https://doi.org/10.1089/cyber.2021.0325>

Other Scholarly Activity:

See attached document