

BARRY

The GRANT Seeker

A quarterly spotlight recognizing excellence in grantsmanship by a Barry University employee

Marilyn Jenkins, PhD, SPHR, GPHR Social Service Provider and Frequent House Guest

Marilyn Jenkins learned her most important life lessons from the river. Her family owned towboats that pushed coal, fuel and corn from New Orleans to Illinois. She was taught sound business practices while running the office. When her family sold their interests in the company, Dr. Jenkins took the opportunity to travel by boat, often taking long trips up and down Florida's coasts. When a terrible storm over the Gulf forced her to seek safe harbor, Dr. Jenkins found herself anchored at the Cape Coral Yacht Basin. And when the sun came out in the wake of the storm, Dr. Jenkins realized she'd found home. Soon after, she took a job as a recruiter/advisor at Barry's ACE site in Fort Myers.

Originally from Reading, Pennsylvania, Dr. Jenkins eventually laid down roots in Pittsburgh and attended La Roche College, where she received her bachelor's degree in sociology, her master's degree in human resource management, and was ultimately employed for 22 years in various capacities. Upon her arrival to Barry, Dr. Jenkins earned her PhD in Leadership and Education with a Specialization in Human Resource Development.

As assistant professor of administration and interim associate dean of business processes for ACE, Dr. Jenkins has mastered the art of accessibility. She commutes up to three times a week from her home in Cape Coral, conducting business on her cellphone along the way.



Dr. Jenkins oversees one of Barry's longest-running grant-funded community initiatives, the *Professional Skill Development Trainings for Elder Service and Special Needs Providers* program. The program received more than \$500,000 in its early years (awards now average \$80,000 annually). Grant support received from Miami-Dade County allows Dr. Jenkins' team to offer training to elder and special need population service providers in South Florida. The workshops cover relevant topics in social work, including advanced case management, death and dying, adolescent and elder sexuality, and suicide and stress management.

Dr. Jenkins' commitment to community service does not stop where the grant funding ends. She continues to seek out

funding opportunities to support her work with youth aging out of the foster care system. It is this population and their needs that tug hardest on Dr. Jenkins' heartstrings. However, despite numerous attempts, she has not been successful in garnering funding for these programs or another initiative she hopes to launch that would provide financial planning classes to people with limited resources.

No matter – Dr. Jenkins' determination is steadfast. As long as there are populations in her community in need of training and the provision of social service, there too will be Dr. Jenkins, enthusiastically developing programs to address the gap in service. Perhaps it was her years working for the family towboat business that instilled in her the philosophy to leave no person – or boat – behind.

So, if in Dr. Jenkins' pursuit to address the social needs of her community she is required to tack on a few hundred additional miles to her odometer (she is currently at 185,000) or pay a few extra dollars in cellphone roaming fees, well then, so be it! All she asks for in return is perhaps a spot on your couch so that she can catch some shut-eye before heading back across the state. Well, Dr. Jenkins, let this GRANT Seeker profile serve as our official offer – there is a spot available for you on our couch *anytime*.



Barry thanks you

It's people like this who move Barry forward. If you are interested in pursuing a grant opportunity or have any questions, please contact the Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs at 305-899-3072.