

## **Pavillon Developing Life-long Recovery Model for College Students** By Brian Coon, MA, LCAS



We know that substance use disorders are found among all people, regardless of personal differences in things like age, gender, socio-economic status and so forth. Our society at large, however, may view those with a doctoral-level profession (medicine, law, etc.) or even someone pursuing a graduate or undergraduate education as somehow less likely to suffer from addiction, because of their education. This view is mistaken.

Fortunately, efforts are already underway on a number of college campuses to help with on-campus recovery support for both undergraduate and graduate students. Further, addiction treatment providers across the country are improving their specialization in addressing substance use disorders in college populations, when referral to formal treatment is necessary.

Ultimately, the person suffering with a substance use disorder may move in and out of college, in and out of graduate school, and be on a path toward entering or re-entering a profession. That person is best served with a network of on-going treatment and recovery-support where all the working parts work together (on-campus recovery supports, residential and outpatient treatment providers, and professional monitoring organizations that provide accountability and advocacy).

Pavillon is part of this effort, by helping develop coordination and communication in efforts supporting total recovery for those in education needing treatment. Instilling hope and being part of helping develop recovery in these lives helps preserve the value of their education and career; but their personal recovery provides a framework through which they can give back over the many future years of their career. It's work worth doing, both for us and for them.