



**Thad Shunkwiler, LMFT, LPCC, ACS,
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Thad Shunkwiler is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Science at Minnesota State University, Mankato. In addition to his academic work, he is a licensed

behavioral health provider with over a decade of experience in treating people with mental health and substance use disorders in Minnesota.

In 2021, he founded the Center for Rural Behavioral Health which aims to ensure access to mental healthcare for rural and outstate communities in Minnesotans. That same year, he was named a Presidential Teaching Scholar and one of seventeen healthcare professionals in the country named a Fellow of the National Rural Health Association.

In 2022, he was named the “Emerging Rural Health Leader” by the Minnesota Rural Health Association and received a Governor’s appointment to the licensing board for marriage and family therapy. Having presented at international, national, regional, and statewide conferences, Professor Shunkwiler is a recognized expert and leader in transforming the behavioral healthcare workforce.