

Presidential Candidate's Speech
To the APA Council of Representatives' Plenary Session
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Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you about my qualifications to serve as APA President.

The President has three broad roles and responsibilities.

First, he or she must be a competent leader;

Second, the president must be someone who has helped advance Psychology from within and can speak knowledgably with the various "communities of interest" within psychology;

Third, the president must be an advocate for psychology --- our spokesperson on broad national issues impacting the future of all psychologists and someone who understands psychology's importance internationally.

My accomplishments in these three areas highlight my leadership strengths and point to my vision for our future.

I have had leadership roles that include working along side you during two terms on Council and then being elected to serve on the Board of Directors. I was president of the Illinois Psychological Association. Two APA presidents asked me to chair their presidential initiatives and I was elected to chair both the Board of Educational Affairs and the Board of Professional Affairs; I am currently Vice Chair of CRSPPP. BEA selected me to lead its task force reviewing the structure and function of accreditation and I chaired the Board of Directors' task force on workforce analysis in psychology.

I have helped build psychology from within. While on BPA we developed APA's policies on practice guidelines; while on BEA the Education Leadership Conference and the Education Advocacy Trust were initiated. The review of accreditation led to the new Commission on Accreditation with its wider, more diverse representation. And I helped secure funding for the new Center for Workforce Studies whose mission assures that APA will have the data to understand our employment pipeline and anticipate opportunities for building psychology's future.

I have advanced our field by founding and editing a journal, publishing five books, being recognized as an outstanding educator, and chairing a department that received both APA's Culture of Service in Science and APAGS' Department of the Year Awards.

I have been a successful advocate for psychology. Receiving the Heiser Award reflects my readiness to speak for psychology in the halls of government. While I was APA's representative on the Joint Commission its regulations were

changed to recognize psychologists as having the right to be leaders of hospital-based programs. Recently the US Secretary of Health and Human Services appointed me to represent psychology on a national advisory committee within the Bureau of Health Professions. That committee's 2008 report to Congress will recognize psychology's place in any future universal health care system and will recommend funding for psychopharmacology education, training, and services provided by appropriately trained psychologists. I know how to advocate for psychology.

Any upcoming expansion to the NIH budget must include adequate funding for psychological science. As a past chair of a "Research 1" academic department, I am prepared to speak knowledgably about funding for our science as-well-as the importance of support for competency-based education across all areas of psychology. As a recipient of a \$1million grant from SAMSHA to establish a program to provide rural, primary care services to the underserved, I will continue to speak to the importance of access to quality care. And, as a board certified practitioner for over 25 years, I understand practice and will continue to seek solutions to the challenges impacting all practitioners – those in independent practice and those in institutional practice. And, as I already have done, this includes supporting psychology's role in universal healthcare. I have been and will continue to be a successful advocate for psychology on the national stage.

Last year, APA's Division 52 presented me with their "Outstanding International Psychologist Award" recognizing my work with programs in Europe, South Africa, and the Middle East. As your president, I am well prepared to be your spokesperson on the international stage.

APA is THE voice for scientists, practitioners, and educators – and it is clear that we all believe in the application of psychological principles for the common good. I will continue to speak to that reality.

I have the leadership experience, as a consensus builder, to bring all psychologists together as one, unified voice.

I have helped build our field from within and have represented and advocated for support, and the growth of psychology nationally and globally.

I understand the broad range of issues confronting psychology and I am well prepared to take on the leadership responsibilities of the APA Presidency.

I ask for your #1 vote so that I can continue to work along side you to build the best future we can for psychology.

Thank you and enjoy the convention.

