

Request for Nomination Speech

President of the American Psychological Association

Presented to the Plenary Session APA Council of Representatives

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Good evening. I am honored to have this opportunity to talk with you about my candidacy to serve as the President of the American Psychological Association. First, I want to thank my friends who are candidates for the Board of Directors, Treasurer, and President. As you know, these offices represent incredible dedication to Psychology, and for that, thank you all for your willingness to serve. To those of you on the Council, I also want to offer my sincere appreciation for your efforts on behalf of our field and our future.

Today, in particular, I want to acknowledge the good work of Council in providing the opportunity for our colleagues from the Asian, Black, Latino\Latina and Native American Psychological Associations to have joined us at this and future Council meetings. The presence of these colleagues is truly important in building the future of Psychology. And it is that future I want to talk with you about this afternoon.

Our future will be strong only when we work together as one “Family of Psychology;” a Family that celebrates our cultural, ethnic, religious, educational, philosophical, and work place diversity while at the same time emphasizing that we all are Psychologists – each of us linked to the other by our shared educational and scientific heritage -- with a collective professional history --- and an intimately entwined future.

As I was describing this theme to my friend Doug McDonald, he smiled and said to me, in the Lakota Language, and I apologize for my pronunciation, Mitakuye Oyasin – which translates, “we are all related” – we are all Family.

I have two overarching Presidential goals that are built upon this universal tradition of Family: first, “All Psychologists must work together to have a strong, coordinated, and articulate approach to advocating for Psychology,” --- no matter whether that advocacy is for the benefit of science, practice, education, or for the public good, and, “All Psychologists must work together to strengthen our field in order to build the best future we can build for Psychology.”

As APA President, I will listen to and work closely with each of you, with our membership at large, and with our excellent APA staff, to make certain that we continue, and strengthen, our advocacy efforts.

As your President I will continue to vigorously advocate for such important issues as enhanced health care reimbursement rates, increased research funding, additional funding for our education & training programs, Institutional Review Board reform, license mobility, expanded scope of practice including prescriptive authority & hospital practice privileges for those who seek those responsibilities, mental health parity, relevant continuing education, tenure protection, support for the various fields of applied scientific psychology, ongoing peer review for funded research, and assured diversity throughout our educational programs, in our Association itself, & across our field.

As President, I will make certain that APA advocates for itself by addressing issues of its own relevancy -- relevancy to our members and potential members and relevancy to those who have left the Association or who currently question our mission. We must be seen universally as a robust Association attending to the needs of all Psychologists no matter from which branch of the “Family of Psychology” they come. This will assure that we have an enduring Association and a strong profession.

While we have many challenges, I am encouraged by what we have accomplished as a science, encouraged by the number of people we have educated, and by the countless number of people we have helped across all our applied areas of practice and consultation and across the wide range of venues in which we work. We have much to

be proud of and much to celebrate as Psychologists. Based upon this, I want to highlight for you the theme I will focus on as APA President. That theme will be:

“Celebrating our Past, Enjoying our Present, and Building Psychology's Future: Educating Psychologists for Science, Practice and Serving the Public” --- “Celebrating our Past, Enjoying our Present, and Building Psychology's Future”

I have discussed this theme with many of you and I look forward to working with all of you to further develop and sharpen the focus of this Presidential initiative.

To achieve my Presidential goals, I will appoint three task forces whose titles reflect our past, present and our future and whose titles very directly telegraph what we will focus upon during my year as President.

To build Psychology's future, I will appoint a “Task Force on Public Health and Health Policy: Opportunities for Psychologists in Practice, Research, Advocacy, and Public Service”;

To help monitor our current advocacy agenda and to ensure the enjoyment of our present, I will appoint a “Task Force on Ensuring Healthy Psychologists and a Healthy Profession: Balancing Work and Personal Life.”

And, in order to celebrate Psychology's past, I will appoint a “Task Force on Recognizing Ourselves, Our Leaders, and Our Diversity Through out the History of Psychology: The Family of Psychology.”

This third task force will have as one of its goals the development of an online, virtual family genealogical tree linking all psychologists. This interactive project will do much to bring together all psychologists in “The Family of Psychology” – all working towards our common goals based upon our shared past and our collective vision for our future.

We come from one Family of Psychology. While we will celebrate our individual diversity during my Presidential Year, we also will concentrate

on our interrelatedness as psychologists. No matter if you are in independent clinical practice or do basic research, are Native American, do applied psychological scientific services across any one of a wide range of venues, identify as a neuroscientist or economist or write public policy, work with children, adults, or older adults, teach intro psychology, live with a physical challenge, serve on the staff of VA Hospital, whether gay or straight, women or man, consult to industry or the courts, are Asian or Black, are NIH funded, are Latino or Latina or White, work at APA or teach at a community college, practice in a community health center or a school, stay at home with your family, are a religious, spiritual or a secular person, work in an Academic Health Science Center or in a family practice clinic, run your own research program and mentor students, serve in the military or teach the psychology of peace -- we are all professionally related and are all members of the "Family of Psychology."

During my Presidential term we will advocate together to assure a vibrant, enjoyable, and successful professional life. I am confident that the theme of focusing on our past, present, and future, and The Family of Psychology will challenge us to carry out the planning necessary to guarantee that we **build the best future we can build** for Psychology.

If I might end by paraphrasing that eminent philosopher, Robert Marley, who sang about the strength of "unity:" --- "you need to know where you are coming from in order to celebrate who you are and know where you're going to."

I look forward to continuing to serve Psychology and APA and to celebrating all of Psychology with you. I ask for your nomination as the next President of the American Psychological Association. Thank you.

