

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Presents This Presidential Citation To

**Members of the APA Rural Health Caucus, the Committee on Rural Health, the Division 31 Rural Health Section
and All Psychologists Leading in Advocacy for Rural Communities**

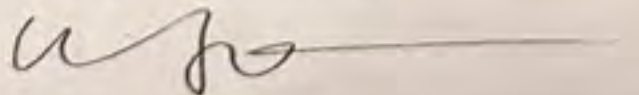
The collective efforts of the members of the APA Rural Health Caucus, the Committee on Rural Health, the Division 31 Rural Health Section and all psychologists leading in advocacy for rural communities have strengthened rural behavioral health systems by addressing the challenges created by workforce shortages, geographic isolation, and limited infrastructure. Through clinical innovation, workforce development, policy advocacy, and community partnership, these psychologists have advanced care in places where it is most needed.

Their leadership has been essential in helping APA and policymakers understand the diverse populations and complex barriers that shape behavioral health in rural America. Many rural residents value stoicism, self-sufficiency, and privacy—cultural norms that can discourage seeking care. Psychologists have responded by designing interventions that honor these values while reducing stigma and expanding pathways to support. They have developed educational materials that illuminate the cultural richness of rural communities and conducted outreach to mental health practitioners to highlight the multifaceted needs of the rural behavioral health workforce.

Psychologists practicing in these communities have provided critical clinical insights that have shaped APA's advocacy for telehealth expansion, broadband access, and policies that strengthen the rural workforce. Their first-hand experience ensures that APA's positions reflect the realities of rural practice.

Together, these APA members and membership groups have created opportunities for community leaders and APA members serving rural communities at every career stage, from students and early career psychologists to long-standing members. They built networks of support, elevated rural voices within APA, and advanced solutions that improve access to care.

In recognition of their service, APA honors psychologists dedicated to rural and frontier communities with this Presidential Citation. On behalf of all who have chosen to make these communities their home, I extend my deepest gratitude for your commitment to expanding access to behavioral health care and strengthening the well-being of rural America.



Wendi S. Williams, PhD
President, American Psychological Association
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