



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

*The Division of State,
Provincial & Territorial
Psychological Association Affairs*

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Vacant

Focus on 31

Fall 2026 • Volume 58 • Issue 3

Div. 31 Convention Left Me Energized and Inspired



**By Anne
Klee, PhD
Division 31
President**

I left the APA Convention energized and inspired by outstanding convention activities with our Division 31 colleagues. Thank you to our Convention Co-Chairs Peter Mikoski and Chris Townsend.

At the Division 31 Board meeting, we had substantive discussions about the state of

professional practice including the decline in referrals reported by several practices, with Lynn Bufka, PhD, and Marnie Shanbhag, PhD, from the APA Practice team. We also learned about new APA state advocacy toolkits and healthcare financing updates with Katherine McGuire, Alix Ginsberg, MPH, and Stephen Gillapy, PhD, from the APA Advocacy team. I am grateful to Alex Siegel, JD, PhD, from the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards for joining the conversation. He reported that the new EPPP will be live in the 3rd or 4th quarter of 2027 and

Energized and Inspired

Continued on page 18

Call for Officer Nominations:

Division 31 is seeking nominations for the following positions:

President-elect

Student Representative

Nominations should include a statement of qualifications and curriculum vitae (CV). Please refer to Div. 31 Bylaws to learn more about these positions.

<https://www.apadivisions.org/division-31/about/bylaws>

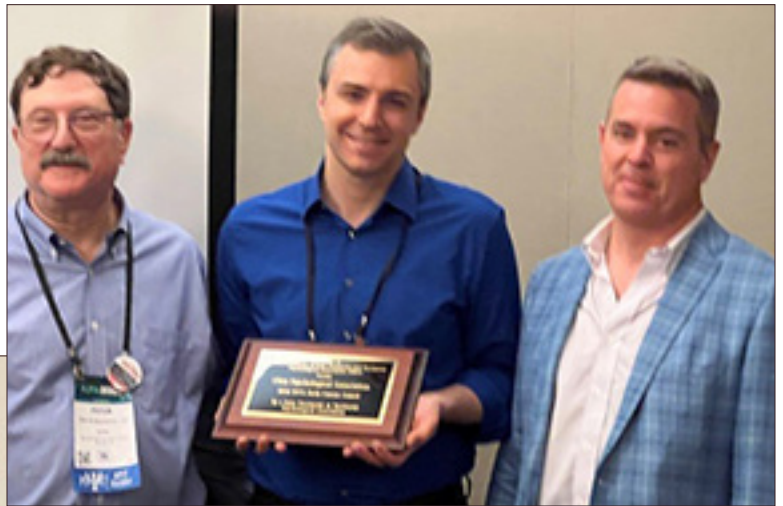
We encourage those interested to submit their supporting materials by December 1, 2026, to

Officer Nomination Chair, Anne Klee, PhD
at annekleephd@gmail.com.

SPTA Leaders Honored During 2026 Convention



Above: Excellence in Rural Health honoree Catherine Carrico, PhD. Below: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Leader Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD, presented by Drs. Peter Oppenheimer and Anne Klee.



Above: ECP Initiative honors Ohio Psychological Association. Left: Outstanding ECP Leader Elise Oehring, PhD.



Above: Oppenheimer and Klee present Outstanding SPTA Psychologist to Kamika Oleasha Stacey Gabriel, PhD.

Div. 31 and National Register Present Advocacy Awards

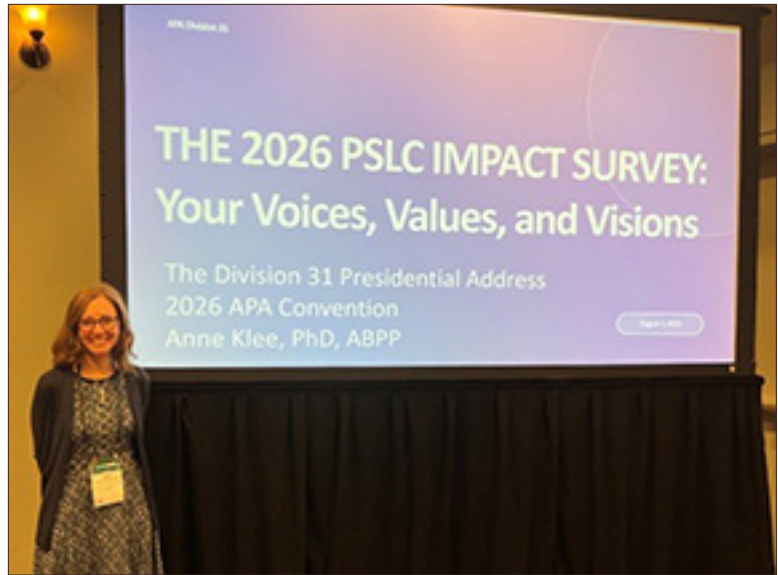


Div. 31 Heiser Award Chair Dr. Elena Eisman presented the 2026 awards to four members with assistance from Div. 31 President Dr. Anne Klee and APA President Dr. Wendi Williams. The 2026 Heiser Award recipients Alan Hack, PhD, shown above left, and Julie Wolter, PsyD, shown above right, were exceptional, and Dr. Williams's remarks about each honoree left us inspired and deeply appreciative of their volunteer advocacy. Not shown are recipients Jinsoon Lee, PsyD, and R. Patrick Savage, Jr., PhD.

Below, the second annual National Register of Health Service Psychologists Advocacy Awards were presented by Andrew Boucher of the National Register and Dr. Jennifer Kelly. Recipients for 2026 were, from left, the Illinois Psychological Association, the Nebraska Psychological Association and the Ohio Psychological Association.



SPTA Leaders Presenting and Attending 2026 Convention



During the 2026 APA Convention, Division 31 attendees were honored to be joined by, top left, APA President Dr. Wendi Williams and, bottom left, Division 31 President Dr. Anne Klee. Participants learned about the 2026 PSLC Impact Survey from Dr. Klee, top right, panelists shown above center Dr. Alexandra Ginsberg, Dr. Elena Eisman and Dr. Nanci Klein, plus attendees, above, Dr. Mayra Zoe Ortiz, Dr. Valeriia Palli and Dr. Diana Prescott.

Div. 31 Names Four Fellows, Three New



Division 31 Fellowship Chair Dr. Bruce Bobbitt in the Yale shirt and Division 31 President Dr. Anne Klee at left in all photos, honored four new Division 31 Fellows. Shown at left is Dr. David Susman, center is Dr. Evelyn Burrell and right is Dr. Mayra Zoe Ortiz. Not shown is Dr. Terrence Koeller who was initially a Division 42 Fellow. Criteria for Fellow status are (1) outstanding contributions through conceptual or practical development and/or implementation of exemplary SPTPA programs, (2) outstanding contributions through leadership in organized psychology, (3) outstanding contributions through publications or other means of information dissemination that have an influential impact on SPTPA affairs, (4) outstanding contributions to national policy development or political action effort and (5) membership criteria and endorser.

Div. 31 Thanks Our Platinum and Friend Reception Sponsors



We want to say, “Thank you,” to our generous Division 31 Awards Ceremony and Social Hour sponsors! Our **Platinum Sponsors** were Advocacy Office of the American Psychological Association, Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (above right), National Register of Health Service Psychologists (above left) and New York State Psychological Association (above center). Our **Friends Sponsors** were American Board of Professional Psychology, Hampden Behavioral Health, Ray Folen, PhD, Danna Fowble, CCM, IOM, Gail Karafin, EdD, Anne Klee, PhD, Nanci Klein, PhD, Peter Oppenheimer, PhD, Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD, Connie Paul, PhD, Jeanne Slattery, PhD, and psychological associations representing Hawaii, Illinois, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.

I Am Honored to Be Part of the 2026 DLP Cohort



**Dr. Timika
Edwards
2026 DLP
Cohort
Graduate**

As an African American woman psychologist and first-generation college graduate, I have dedicated my career to advancing mental health awareness, advocacy, and access within underserved and historically marginalized communities. My passion for psychology and community empowerment began during my sophomore year of high school and has continued to shape both my educational path and professional mission.

I currently own a private practice and co-own a group practice where I provide culturally responsive mental health services

while also supervising and mentoring trainees. My work focuses on creating safe and affirming spaces for individuals navigating trauma, anxiety, depression, life transitions, and systemic stressors. I believe deeply in the importance of representation and culturally competent care within the mental health profession.

In addition to clinical work, I have been heavily involved in community outreach and advocacy efforts. I co-founded mental health ministry for my large congregation church where I help develop psychoeducational programming, workshops, and discussions aimed at reducing stigma surrounding mental health in the Black community. Through these initiatives, we have connected countless individuals and families to resources, support, and healing conversations.

My commitment to social justice is reflected in my involvement with organizations such as the Association of Black Psychologists, the American Psychological Association, and MOPA, where I currently serve as the incoming Diversity Board Officer. I served in a leadership role during the Ferguson protests, helping facilitate conversations around racial trauma, community healing, and advocacy.

I am honored to have been selected for the 2026 DLP cohort where the support is ongoing, and to have been recently recognized as an Unsung Shero in St. Louis for my contributions to mental health and community service. Through leadership, mentorship, and advocacy, I remain committed to creating meaningful change, amplifying diverse voices, and improving mental health outcomes for future generations.

Congratulations to 2026 Division 31 Awards Recipients

Outstanding SPTA Psychologist Award: Kamieka Oleasha Stacey Gabriel, PhD

Outstanding SPTA Equity Diversity Inclusion Leader Award: Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD

Outstanding SPTA Early Career Psychologist Leader Award: Elise Oehring, PhD

Committee on Early Career Psychologists Initiative Award: Ohio Psychological Association

APA Excellence in Rural Health Award: Catherine Carrico, PhD

Division 31 Fellows

Evelyn Burrell, PsyD, Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD, David Susman, PhD and Terrence Koller, PhD (Initial Div. 42)

National Register of Health Service Psychologists Advocacy Awards

Illinois Psychological Association
Nebraska Psychological Association
Ohio Psychological Association

2026 Division 31 Calendar of Meetings and Liaison Activities



<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
September 4	Integrated Care	Zoom
September 8	Rural Health Section	Zoom
September 10	Communication Committee	Zoom
September 15	Diversity Committee	Zoom
September 17	Exec Conference Call	Zoom
October 2	Integrated Care	Zoom
October 15	Exec Conference Call	Zoom
October 20	Diversity Committee	Zoom
November 6	Integrated Care	Zoom
November 12	Communication Committee	Zoom
November 17	Diversity Committee	Zoom
November 19	Exec Conference Call	Zoom
December 4	Integrated Care	Zoom
December 8	Rural Health Section	Zoom
December 15	Diversity Committee	Zoom
December 17	Exec Conference Call	Zoom

Advertise with Us

Focus on 31 invites you to consider advertising in our newsletter. Published three times annually, we reach decision makers throughout the profession. For details, [email](#) the Editor.

Classified Ads: \$10 per line, minimum three lines.

Display Ads: Ads must be in digital format, 300 dpi, .eps, .tif or .pdf. 8x10: \$400; 3x5 Vertical: \$150; 3x2: \$50.

- All Exec Conference calls are held at 7:30 pm Eastern time zone
- All Communication Committee calls are held at 1:00 pm Eastern time zone
- All Integrated Care calls are held at Noon Eastern time zone
- All Diversity Committee calls are held at 7:00 pm Eastern time zone
- All Rural Health Section calls are held at 7:00 pm Eastern time zone



"Love Is a Burning Thing, and It Makes a Fiery Ring..."



**Pat DeLeon,
PhD,
former APA
President**

A Very Enjoyable APA 134th Annual Convention:

This year's convention in Washington, DC was extremely pleasant with approximately 9,000 colleagues attending in person and virtually. President Wendi Williams' Opening Session was highly inspirational; as was watching enthusiastic graduate students and the next generation of psychologists line up to have their picture taken with CEO Arthur Evans at the Gathering Place. And naturally, being invited by Helen Coons to participate in the *Psychologists Vote* demonstration was quite special.

A Well Deserved

Recognition: Immediately following the APA annual conference, at the VA Psychology Leadership Conference (VAPLC), Russell Lemle highlighted the impressive contributions of APA's Chief Advocacy Officer Katherine B. McGuire who was selected to receive the 2026 Patrick DeLeon Advocacy Award. "It is my earnest privilege to share Katherine's high impact in influencing policy and resource allocation decisions within political, organizational, and social systems for the mental health services and welfare of our nation's Veterans. Veterans benefit in immeasurable ways by her work, and her efforts also greatly



enhance the strength and viability of VA psychologists. Katherine became APA's first Chief Advocacy Officer in January 2019, bringing more than 25 years of senior-level policy experience spanning Congress, the Executive Branch, and the private sector. In that role, she has overseen a sustained effort to protect and strengthen VA mental health care, directing a unified government relations operation that engages Congress, federal agencies, and the White House on behalf of psychology's interests. Her mandate from the onset included ensuring that APA speaks with one voice before policymakers on issues affecting Veterans' care – a charge she has pursued with intensity as threats to the VA system have mounted over the last several years. She also has manifest unwavering support for the VAPLC, a key for the vibrancy and effectiveness of the VA psychologist community.

"A central pillar of her Veterans' advocacy has been the campaign to move VA psychologists to full Title 38 hiring authority. APA under her leadership has made it a high priority for Congress to

place psychologists under the full Title 38 hiring framework, which provides more competitive salaries than the federal GS scale. She has delivered or submitted formal Congressional testimony on Veterans' mental health on multiple occasions. In September 2020, she submitted written testimony to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs covering more than thirty bills, including the VA Zero Suicide Demonstration Project Act, the VA Telehealth Expansion Act, and the VA Clinical TEAM Culture Act. She advocated successfully for APA-sponsored language in the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act, including a staffing plan for all mental-health providers, a scholarship program for psychology students who agree to work at Vet Centers, and a study on alternative work schedules – while continuing to press Congress for enhanced psychologist hiring authority. Her 2023 statement for the record addressed VA community care utilization, suicide prevention, and community-based legislation, maintaining consistent

It Makes a Fiery Ring

Continued on page 13

Member Spotlight: Sandra Dixon, PhD, RPsych

Professional and Educational Background

Born in Jamaica, where the national motto, “Out of Many, One People,” celebrates unity and diversity, Dr. Dixon immigrated to Canada at a young age. Navigating multiple cultures deepened her understanding of belonging and inspired a career dedicated to mental health, education, and advocacy.



Today, Dr. Dixon serves as an Associate Professor of Counselling Psychology at the University of Lethbridge and Associate Faculty with City University's Calgary Virtual Campus in Alberta. Her research focuses on anti-Black racism, racial trauma, immigration, spirituality and religion in therapy, decolonizing counselling psychology, and community-engaged research. Through teaching, research, clinical practice, and leadership, Dr. Dixon is committed to making psychological knowledge accessible

and responsive to lived experiences while fostering brave spaces where individuals feel respected, supported, and empowered.

Key Experiences that shaped Dr. Dixon's Path

Throughout her journey, Dr. Dixon has been shaped by the people, relationships, and lived experiences that continue to inspire her work as a counselling psychologist, educator, researcher, professional life coach, motivational speaker, advocate, and leader. As a Black Canadian immigrant from Jamaica, she experienced many of the cultural and systemic challenges of building a new life in Canada, while witnessing the resilience of immigrant families navigating settlement with limited access to culturally responsive mental health care. These realities inspired her commitment to supporting immigrant and racialized communities.

Her leadership has been enriched through service on the Psychologists' Association of Alberta Board and participating in the APA Diversity Leadership Program. Collectively, these roles reinforced her belief that authentic leadership is built on collaboration, humility, lifelong learning, and creating environments where others feel valued, supported, and empowered to thrive.

Psychologists' Association of Alberta (PAA)

Dr. Dixon joined PAA to contribute to a profession committed to evidence-informed practice, advocacy, and improving



access to psychological services. From 2020 to 2026, she served on the PAA Board of Directors in several leadership roles, including Early Career Psychologists Representative, Chair of the Board Culture Committee, and PAA Diversity Delegate to the American Psychological Association Practice Leadership Conferences.

Among her proudest contributions was establishing the Wellness Corner, a space where early career psychologists could connect, share experiences, and discuss topics such as self-care, professional resilience, and trauma-informed practice. She also contributed to Psymposium, PAA's newsletter, promoting psychologist wellness, continuing education, and culturally responsive care.

Inclusion & Justice

Dr. Dixon's commitment to equity, accessibility, diversity, inclusion, justice, and Indigeneity is deeply rooted in her personal journey and the stories entrusted to her by the individuals and communities she serves. Whether

Member Spotlight
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Div. 31 Mentorship Program Announced, Seeking Mentors



Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD
Div31
Mentorship
Program
Chair

Division 31, as the home for all SPTAs, is excited to invite you to our Leadership Mentorship Program!

We are looking for mentors who can inspire, guide, and provide their expertise to our next generation of leaders. Our mentorship program is designed to support early career psychologists and BIPOC psychologists on their

path to leadership positions within their SPTAs and APA governance.

Here's what we are looking for:

- Experience with political advocacy.
- Implementation of initiatives concerning jurisdiction-relevant issues.
- Skills on how to ascend to leadership positions.

To be eligible for mentorship you must:

- a) be a member of your state, province, or territorial psychological association;
- b) be a member of Division 31 in good standing; and
- c) have experience in leadership roles.

If you are not a member of Division 31, this is a perfect opportunity to join us and learn about all we can offer.

For more information, please [email me](#), [Anne Klee](#) (Division 31 President) or [Connie Paul](#) (Division 31 Executive Director).

Warm regards,
Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD
*Division 31-
Immediate Past President*
Anne Klee, PhD
Division 31- President
Connie Paul, PhD
Division 31 – Executive Director



State, Provincial & Territorial Affairs Division 31

Mentorship Program Mentor Application Form

Name: _____ Degree: _____

SPTA Affiliation: _____

Email Address: _____

Preferred Phone: _____

Current & Past Leadership Positions:

Areas in which you are comfortable mentoring:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Adults | ☐ LGBTQIA+ |
| ☐ Applied Psychology | ☐ Marriage & Family Counseling |
| ☐ Child & Adolescents | ☐ Organizational Strategies |
| ☐ Chronic Illness | ☐ Political Advocacy |
| ☐ Disability | ☐ Practice Issues |
| ☐ EDI | ☐ Prescriptive Authority (Rx P) |
| ☐ Geriatric | ☐ Rural Communities |
| ☐ Integrated Care | ☐ Substance Abuse |
| ☐ Other | |

Please provide us with more information about your area of expertise:

Research interest and/or additional comments:

How many mentees are you willing to mentor?

Please complete this form and return it at your earliest convenience to:

Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD, at zoe07470@gmail.com



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It Makes a Fiery Ring

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attention to the risks of unchecked growth of community care at the detriment of the VA system.

“In 2025, Katherine took on two of the most urgent threats to VA mental health care in decades. She called on VA Secretary Doug Collins to reverse the damage caused by the Trump Administration’s return-to-office order, which had forced mental health professionals back into crowded workstations where they could not guarantee patient privacy – a situation potentially in violation of professional mental health standards and likely to drive vulnerable Veterans away from treatment. She also submitted a statement to the House Veterans Affairs Oversight and Investigations subcommittee warning that the Veterans’ ACCESS Act could adversely impact care quality by permitting access to outpatient private treatment without VA authorization or referral, eroding care coordination and reducing clinical oversight standards in community settings. Katherine does all this with such aplomb that she is regularly named as one of Washington’s most effective lobbyists by The Hill and the National Institute for Lobbying Ethics. Across almost eight years as Chief Advocacy Officer, she has been a consistent, high-profile voice supporting VA workforce investment and for preserving the system’s capacity to deliver specialized, evidence-based mental health care to the nation’s Veterans.”

The Importance of

Personal Involvement: Steve Podrygula: “I write as acting Mayor of the fourth largest city in

our state! For once, I have some actual news, having to do with public service and psychology’s contribution – or at least that of one psychologist – to the public good. On June 9, 2026, I was sworn in (for a four-year term) as a City of Minot Alderman, coming in first in a seven-person field (running for that post)! I initially got elected to the City Council back in 1998 and have served, on and off, 16 years since then (with a two-year hiatus since my last term).

“More surprisingly, this time, I was elected Council President, meaning I assume the Office of Mayor when he is unavailable, as is currently the case (with him traveling out-of-state). The post is generally a sinecure, although occasionally time-sensitive documents have to be signed or proclamations issued. However, if something really bad should happen (e.g., like the train derailment back in 2002, which resulted in an enormous leak of anhydrous ammonia, killing a person and injuring some 800; or the 2011 flood that caused the evacuation of over 11,000 residents and over \$1 billion in damages) then you really have a great deal of responsibility on your shoulders.

“It’s been a real privilege, and often a pleasure, to serve our community. It’s also a very different world, dealing with our staff and the intricacies of municipal government. I’m used to the academic and medical communities, so interacting with heavy equipment operators, trash collectors, engineers, police officers, and firefighters, whose education, backgrounds, and occupational cultures and (even) languages are very different from what I’m used to. But it has been a

very satisfying learning experience, and I try to apply my professional education in productive ways and learn from their expertise.

“As you well know, balancing the desires and needs of all of our citizens is a challenging task, especially given the level of polarization between certain groups and the indifference of so many people to civic life and the responsibilities of a citizen in a democratic society. Although I definitely identify with many libertarian and conservative positions, regrettably, a sizeable portion of the population who espouses those views does not understand Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.’s dictum that ‘taxes are the price we pay for civilization’ (wanting a broad range of city services and yet being very reluctant to pay for them).

“Right now is a very busy time, as we struggle to finalize the 2027 budget. I’m putting in three days a week on city business. We have some 40,000 residents, a staff of about 500, and a budget of \$270 million; so, essentially, I’m on the board of a decent size corporation, something I never anticipated I would end up doing. It’s a lot of responsibility, but also real opportunity. Overall, it has been an ongoing educational experience and a real pleasure to be able to serve and have the chance to contribute to my community.

“Needless to say, my training as a scientist and career as a clinician have been very helpful, in understanding the issues that we face, maintaining good and healthy relationships with the general public, and working to provide more effective and efficient

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It Makes a Fiery Ring

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city services (e.g., by setting realistic goals, measuring progress, reinforcing appropriate behavior, and readjusting our interventions as necessary, much as we would do in a clinical case). My political life also provides an important coping mechanism, when it comes to dealing with the dysfunction and polarization in Washington. Now, there's not much that I can do about what's going on there, but, if I try hard enough, there are some things that I might be able to accomplish to improve civic life in my home community.

"Apart from my ongoing involvement in local politics, I continue in my private practice of clinical and forensic psychology, although I have cut back in nearly all direct patient care. Most of my work is now serving as a forensic consultant and expert witness, and I've testified in well over 2500 legal cases; again, something I never anticipated, but which my broad liberal arts education has prepared me for quite well.

"In contrast to my pretty heavy public service and professional workload, my wife is enjoying her retirement, after 41 years of work as an academic librarian at our local state university. Our

daughter seems to be doing well, as an attorney in Washington, after completing a top-notch education (at institutions far more prestigious than mine): magna cum laude Bachelors from Middlebury; and cum laude JD, making *Law Review* and getting a public policy fellowship, from the University of Michigan. So, overall, my family and I are doing pretty well. Hope you and yours are healthy and reasonably happy."

"And it burns, burns, burns,
the ring of fire, the ring of fire"
(Johnny Cash. Ring of Fire).

Aloha,

Pat DeLeon, former APA President
– Division 31 – August, 2026



Member Spotlight

Continued from page 9
conducting research, teaching, mentoring, coaching, sponsoring others, serving in governance roles, or engaging in advocacy, she is guided by a set of enduring questions: Whose voices are being heard? Whose experiences are missing? What barriers continue to exist? How can we create spaces where everyone feels valued and experiences a genuine sense of belonging?

For Dr. Dixon, inclusion extends beyond representation. It means creating environments where people feel welcomed and supported to bring their whole selves, knowing they will be seen, heard, and valued.

Hope & Impact

Dr. Dixon is inspired by the next generation of psychologists whose curiosity, empathy, and commitment continue to propel the field forward. She is encouraged by the growing recognition that culture, faith, community, and lived experience are central to understanding mental health.

For Dr. Dixon, lasting impact emerges through everyday actions—mentoring students, supporting colleagues, listening with openness, creating opportunities for others, and strengthening relationships marked by care and mutual respect. She believes these small, intentional moments contribute to a more inclusive, responsive, and connected future for psychology.

Advice to My Younger Self

Dr. Dixon's advice to her younger self is simple: trust the journey. Growth is rarely linear,

and seasons of uncertainty can often reveal unexpected possibilities. She encourages students and early career psychologists to remain curious, seek mentors, intentionally invest in meaningful relationships, and embrace experiences that deepen their confidence, broaden their perspective, and strengthen their professional identity.



Fun Facts!

Outside of psychology, Dr. Dixon enjoys spending time in nature, taking long walks, and appreciating the beauty and teachings of the Indigenous lands where she lives and works. An avid traveler, she makes it a goal to explore a new destination each year, discovering different cultures, cuisines, and world views.

She also enjoys theatre, live music, festivals, paint nights, and community events that cultivate connection and imagination. Her Christian faith remains a source of strength through prayer, journaling, and daily reflection.

A lesser-known fact is her love of writing poetry, which provides an expressive complement to academic writing. Above all, Dr. Dixon treasures time with family and friends, whose love, laughter, and support continue to influence who she is and the person she strives to become.

Visit the
Division 31
web site
for current
information
and blogs for
a variety of
communities.

Energized and Inspired

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shared the ASPPB Model Licensing Act is out for public comment ([here](#)). Colleagues from the National Register of Health Service Psychology also participated discussing the National Register's State Advocacy Awards and our shared work through the Coalition of Psychology Practice Organizations (CPPO).

Division 31 offered excellent CE programming and co-hosted the Karl F. Heiser Awards on Friday, August 7, with APA President Wendi Williams, PhD. The 2026 Heiser Award recipients—Alan Hack, PhD; Jinsoon Lee, PsyD; R. Patrick Savage, Jr., PhD; and Julie Wolter, PsyD—were exceptional, and Dr. Williams's remarks about each honoree left us inspired and deeply appreciative of their volunteer advocacy. Thank you to Elena Eisman, PhD, for her dedication and hard work coordinating the Heiser Awards. The evening continued with the Division 31 Annual Awards Ceremony and Social Hour—wonderfully attended, warmly collegial, and, frankly, delicious. A special thank you to our generous sponsors:

- **Platinum:** Advocacy Office, American Psychological Association; Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards; National Register of Health Service Psychologists; New York State Psychological Association
- **Friends:** American Board of Professional Psychology; Hampden Behavioral Health; Hawaii Psychological Association; Illinois

Psychological Association; New Hampshire Psychological Association; New Jersey Psychological Association; North Carolina Psychological Association; Pennsylvania Psychological Association; Rhode Island Psychological Association; Ray Folen, PhD; Danna Fowble, CCM, IOM; Gail Karafin, EdD; Anne Klee, PhD; Nanci Klein, PhD; Peter Oppenheimer, PhD; Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD; Connie Paul, PhD; Jeanne Slattery, PhD

It was a privilege to honor and recognize several outstanding colleagues and SPTAs.

Outstanding SPTA Psychologist Award: Kamieka Oleasha Stacey Gabriel, PhD; *Outstanding SPTA Equity Diversity Inclusion Leader Award:* Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD *Outstanding SPTA Early Career Psychologist Leader Award:* Elise Oehring, PhD; *Committee on Early Career Psychologists Initiative Award:* Ohio Psychological Association.

We also recognized several Division 31 members whose Fellow status was newly conferred by the APA Council of Representatives. Thank you to Bruce Bobbitt, PhD, Division 31 Fellows Chair, for going the extra mile to support and guide four members through the process. Congratulations to our new *Division 31 APA Fellows:* Evelyn Burrell, PsyD; Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD; and David Susman, PhD. Congratulations as well to Terrence Koller, PhD—an APA Fellow whose initial divisional affiliation is Division 42.

We also celebrated *APA Excellence in Rural Health*

Award recipient Catherine Carrico, PhD, and recognized the *National Register of Health Service Psychologists Advocacy Awards* recipients: the Illinois Psychological Association, the Nebraska Psychological Association, and the Ohio Psychological Association.

To date, Division 31 Summer Series has been well attended. Many of the sessions were recorded or slides are available. Please use the links below. We are planning some excellent programming for the coming fall months so stay tuned!

- June 12 — D31 as part of the Coalition of Psychology Practice Organizations offers: Chiles v. Salazar: Implications for Psychology and Licensing with Steve Smith, JD (presenter) and Nan Klein, PhD (discussant) ([recording](#))
- June 25 — Rapid Response Forum: Protecting NSF Social and Behavioral Science Funding with Krysta Jones and Julianne Baron ([recording](#))
- July 8 — Town Hall: Managing Outside Lobbyists: Best Practices for Building Effective Advocacy Partnerships with Alexandra Ginsberg, MPH ([slides on website](#))
- July 23 — Town Hall: Meet the APA Presidential Candidates ([recording](#))
- July 30 — Rapid Response Forum: Key Practice Advocacy Priorities for the CY27 CMS Proposed Physician Fee Schedule with Stephen Gillaspay, PhD ([slides on website](#))

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- August 25 – Town Hall:
Reinventing the Doctoral
Psychologist: Leading the
Market, Not Chasing It with
Kate Brown, PhD, Pat DeLeon,
JD, PhD, Chuck Hollister PhD,
and Larry James, PhD

Thank you to Peter

Oppenheimer, PhD for leading our
monthly SPTA Liaison Meetings
(first Thursday of each month
at 7:30 pm) where we have been
hearing from SPTAs about issues
affecting their states and discussing
concerns as well as best practices
and growing connections. All are
welcome! Zoom information is
shared on the D31 listserv.

I am so grateful to Connie
Paul, PhD, our Executive Director,

the Division 31 board and
committee chairs and members
for all your work to support the
division's mission of providing
political advocacy, leadership
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connections. All are welcome!
Zoom information is shared on the
D31 listserv.

I am so grateful to Connie
Paul, PhD, our Executive Director,
the Division 31 board and
committee chairs and members
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Visit the [Division 31 web site](#)
to see these blogs for a variety of communities:

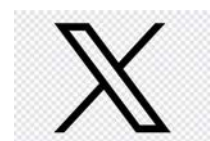
[Diversity Task Force](#)

[Early Career Psychologists](#)

[Ethics Education](#)

[Health Care Reform](#)

[Student Task Force](#)



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