

SCHNEIDER 2020

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APA President-elect candidate

This is our time. This is the time for psychology to take the lead in repairing and transforming the world. This is the time to address the existential crises that are now flaring all about us. We are in crisis racially, politically, and environmentally. We are in crisis with gender and sexual injustices, and we are in crisis with mental and physical health. In short America is poised on the precipice, and if our profession fails to grasp this problem, we are in danger of inflaming it.

What I offer as a presidential candidate is a commitment to a whole-person, integrative orientation to our profession. I have worked in a range of settings, from the state hospital to private practice and I have abounding respect for the demands of those institutions. I also have a profound appreciation for the depth and breadth of quality psychological services, which are woefully limited in our current system of public mental health. In this light I have three major aims that I would like to fulfill as APA president: 1) Greater inclusivity of whole person, relational approaches to healthcare; 2) The advocacy of an office of a psychologist general of the United States. This office would involve a distinguished expert in evidence-based, integrative psychological practices and would, in coordination with other federal agencies, address the crises in public mental health; and 3) I would promote safe, highly structured dialogue groups to address the alarming divisiveness in our institutions and culture. Approaches like this will be increasingly critical as we as a country address the personal elements underlying racial and political polarization, particularly in the wake of the George Floyd slaying. Together these aims epitomize the integrative vision and spiritual rejuvenation I would pursue for contemporary American psychology.

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