Presidential Address

It has been a blessing to serve as Div. 35, Sec. 6 (AN/AI/Indigenous women) president over the past two years. The section is small but mighty, in that we’ve been able to mobilize our efforts continuously! In collaboration with Dr. Wendy Peters, via support through a CEMMRAT grant and a smaller RWJF grant the Reservation to Graduation (R2G)-Indigenous mentoring program was implemented during my time. As a result, we’ve had student leaders step up and create backpack drives, winter clothing drives, and other ways of giving back to Indian Country across the U.S. They have also made significant strides in their undergrad and graduate programs!! These student leaders (just a few I’d like to mention Royleen Ross, Amanda Young, Sloan Henry, Tina Lincourt & Melissa Wheeler) have inspired other members to give back to their local Indian communities as well. This has become a permanent part of our mission through community engagement. Programming (e.g., APA, SIP conference, NMCS, etc.) and other collaborative efforts between Society of Indian Psychologists (SIP), Div. 45, and Div. 18 have been established with plans to continue to build and grow. Our section, under the leadership of our award’s chair and co-chair (Dr. Anita Miheco & Wendy Peters), developed three awards to honor established leaders in the field, early career professionals, and student members. Very proud to say that Div. 35 EC approved funding for these awards as well as a working budget for our section!! Consistent support from our council of established elders and early career professionals (just mentioning a few—Drs. Iva GreyWolf, Diane Willis, Melinda Garcia, Gayle Morse, Wendy Peters & Kee Straits) have helped pave the way for advocacy within the field. They have been instrumental in helping us stand firm in our response to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (NoDAPL, see pg. 8 link to NATGEO article) as well as navigating our relationship with APA, especially in terms of the move for APA to step up and provide an apology to American Indians/Alaska Natives/Native Hawaiians and Indigenous people in the U.S. Div. 39, sec. 9 generated an encouraging letter of apology and is continuing to mobilize support for the letter (Div. 35 is among the supporters of the letter)-they presented the letter at the 2017 National Multicultural Conference & Summit to members of SIP in January. There are plans for Div. 35 & 45 Council Reps to bring up this to APA and our section is supportive of working with our reps.

I’m so grateful to have been mentored by Drs. Wendy Peters, Iva GreyWolf, Diane Willis, Jacque Gray, Melinda Garcia, Gayle Morse, Kee Straits, Melissa Tehee, Anita Mihecoby, & Amonieeta Beckstein. I also appreciate the support from Royleen Ross, Amanda Young, Sloan Henry, Tina Lincourt, & Melissa Wheeler during my presidency. These powerful feminists’ sages imparted wisdom, love, and kindness through some of really challenging times. We shared laughs, tears, glasses of wine, chocolate cake…you name it. I love each of you and look forward to the continued growth of our friendships and of this section! Peace & Blessings,

Julii Green, PhD

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Julii Green, PhD
Section 6
President
Meet our Executive Committee

Julii Green, PhD - President
Dr. Julii Green (African American & Eastern Band Cherokee), is the current president of Sec. 6. She is an Assistant Professor in the Clinical PsyD Dept. at CSPP/AIU-San Diego. Dr. Green obtained her PhD in clinical Psychology from the University of North Dakota and completed postdoctoral studies at UC Berkeley (School of Public Health) and UCSF (Child Trauma Research Program). Dr. Green has worked in community mental health for over 10 years. She has published on the impact of IPV and friendship qualities, the impact of IPV on Native Americans, health disparities among ethnically diverse populations, gender based stereotypes, and the development of tribe focused research. Additionally, she established a research lab focused on wellness-based approaches to addressing health disparities among ethnically diverse and marginalized populations.

Wendy Peters, PhD - Past President
Originally from Hawaii, Dr. Peters is Native Hawaiian and currently resides in Dayton, Ohio where she works as a researcher at Wright State University School of Medicine in the Center for Interventions, Treatment, and Addictions Research (CITAR). She also adjuncts as teaching faculty for both Antioch University and Sofia University. With an interdisciplinary background in psychology, business, and technology, Dr. Peters is a Health and Community Psychologist who has been an outspoken advocate of Native peoples. For almost 20 years, Dr. Peters has effectively worked to address the bio-psycho-social determinants of health, health disparities, mental health, underrepresented/minority student recruitment and retention, leadership, mentoring, and National policy as it pertains to American Indians and other indigenous populations. Dr. Peters currently holds a number of leadership positions in several divisions and committees within the APA.

Royleen Ross, MA, Secretary
Greetings from North Dakota! My name is Royleen J. Ross and I am from the Pueblo of Laguna, Village of Paguate, located in New Mexico. Currently, I am a clinical psychology 5th year doctoral candidate at UND, actively participating in the APPIC internship process. I received my MA at UND and BA from the University of New Mexico. I recently defended my dissertation, entitled "American Indian Biculturalism Inventory - Pueblo." I am a member of APA, Division 35, Section 6, where I serve as the secretary, Division 45, Society of Indian Psychologists, Division 18, Psychologists in Public Service, and Psi Chi. I also
serve as the research team leader for the UND Indians in Psychology Doctoral Education program research team. My professional interests involve the advancement of indigenous peoples and multicultural considerations in psychology.

**Tina Lincourt, MA, Treasurer**
Tina, APA Division 35, Section 6 Treasurer, is a tribal member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She is currently a 4th year Psy.D. student at Loma Linda University. Tina's passion for community involvement has led her to become involved not only as our treasurer but also serves as the graduate student for the APA Council of National Psychological Associations for the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Interests (CNPAAEMI) Leadership Development Institute (LDI), and served on the 2016 APA Division 45 Program Committee, Reservation to Graduation mentoring program. Tina's research interests include serious mental illness, personality assessment, and substance use disorders within and across culture.

**Dr. Anita Mihecoby, PhD M ECP Rep/Awards Coordinator**
Dr. Anita Mihecoby is a Comanche Tribal member and Chicana. She is an Early Career Psychologist Representative and member of Awards Committee. Dr. Mihecoby is in private practice in Jacksonville Florida. She completed her PhD in Counseling Psychology at New Mexico State University with a specialty in Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Integrative Health Psychology. She completed her pre-doctoral training at the Indian Health Care Resource Center of Tulsa and her postdoctoral training in child and adolescent psychological assessment in Choctaw country, Oklahoma. Dr. Mihecoby’s clinical interest includes holistic interventions to mediate lifestyle changes to improve overall health. She has published on historical trauma healing and Indigenous philosophy in counseling psychology.

**Division 35 Section 6 Membership Chair**
Hello! My name is Micah Prairie Chicken and I am an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Oyate. Currently, I am a second year graduate student in the clinical psychology doctoral program at the University of North Dakota. I earned my B.S. in psychology and sociology from Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota. My research and clinical interests are in stress and coping among Northern Plains American Indians.
Melissa Wheeler, MA, Newsletter Editor/Social Media Representative
Melissa is a member of the Diné Nation. She received her Master’s in Counseling Psychology from the University of North Dakota. Melissa recently completed her positions as a Graduate Assistant to Division 45 Program Chair and Division 45 Student Representation at UND. She is a current fellow for the NAADAC Minority Fellowship Program for Addictions Counselors. Melissa’s research interests include service to underserved minority populations, mental and behavioral health among American Indian populations including prevention and treatment of substance abuse disorders.

Sloan Henry, BA, Student Representative
Sloan is in the Master of Arts in Counseling Community Mental Health student at UND with plans in graduating in May 2107. Sloan and husband Travis will be celebrating their 12th anniversary in February, and are the proud parents of four children. Sloan has been active in APA since 2015 and is a member of APAGS, Division 35 Section 6, and Division 45. Her poster presentations include: “3 Cycle Comparison of Native American Elder Abuse Indicators” and “A Native American Feminists Internship Experience at a Domestic Violence Center”. More recently, she co-authored a manuscript titled “The Three Sister Garden: A culturally relevant training model for Native Americans students.” Sloan is also the Project Coordinator position for the National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative housed at UND’s Center for Rural Health. Her goals are to apply to a Doctoral Counseling Psychology program and to return back to her hometown with the proper education and experience to provide Community Mental Health services.

Amanda Young, BA, Student Representative
Hello, I am Amanda Young, I am from Dunseith, ND. I am an enrolled member of the MHA Nation and I am also part of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Community. Currently, I am in the Masters Counseling Psychology Graduate program at UND with plans on applying for the doctoral program in counseling psychology. My role includes spreading the word and advocating for our section. I became a member of this section because I felt love and support and have a voice and a place within this family section. Eventually, I want to change the perceptions and biases America has about Native Americans. Being a part of this family has helped me present several research projects promoting the different issues within Indian Country.

Division 35 Section 6 President and President Elect positions are open. Please nominate yourself or others.
Mascots, Merchandising, and Manifest Destiny

By Dr. Wendy M. K. Peters & Ms. Tina M. Lincourt, M.A.

You may be wondering what the correlation is between mascots, merchandising, and Manifest Destiny. Simply put, all are complicit when it comes to the misappropriation of Native American heritage. For some people, the corollary is apparent and goes hand-in-hand with a deference for social justice and the plight of many Native Americans. Still, there are other people who see no harm or foul in what they consider to be at most good natured satire. Certainly, the evidence of a recent poll published by the Washington Post in relation to a National Football League (NFL) team’s use of the “R” term, supports that correlation.

Not Offensive. Data from a recent unscientific internet poll with a sample size of \( n = 504 \) self-identified Native Americans across the United States, suggests that nearly nine out of ten Native respondents did not find the “R” term use in the team’s name offensive. In addition, more than 70 percent of those questioned did not consider the “R” term to be disrespectful to Native Americans (Barry, 2016; Cox, Clement, & Vargas, 2016). Could this revelation mean vindication for the team’s owner? Bolstered by the ruling of a federal appeals court that struck down part of a law that let the government reject trademarks it deemed offensive or disparaging to others (Sandomir, 2015), the football team’s owner stands firm in his position that his NFL team will not entertain changing its name or mascot to appease critics, social justice activists, Native advocates, or the like, now or in the future.

At what cost? A complex dilemma to say the least, with cost estimates ranging from the 10’s of millions to the 100’s of millions (El-Naggar, & Roman, 2014), making any kind of change to the current name or logotype seems all but incomprehensible. Likewise, relenting to social or political pressures for name change would cause major upheavals for loyal fans who ardently defend their team’s legacy and identity. Yet, whether one is a fan, a Native, a psychologist, or all of the above, the real question to be considered here is whether it’s about making money, or making amends?

Even conventional scholarship acknowledges that Manifest Destiny was a widely held belief [by European settlers] in imperialism that subsequently became the primary impetus for Western expansionism across America in the 1800s. Underlying the notion of Manifest Destiny was also a belief in superiority and the moral right to govern others, although the concept did not stop at governance. The homelands, languages, and sovereignty of Native peoples were deliberately targeted for eradication in an effort to nullify Native cultures (Peters, Straits, & Gauthier, 2014).

Consequently, many historical and literary depictions, including those in today’s popular media, portray Native peoples as inferior, although the message is often subliminal or downplayed. In more relevant contexts, the “R” term is easily construed as a racial microagression and is even defined in most dictionaries as a racial slur, thus meeting criteria for an indignity. In their study, Nadal, et al., found that racial microagression was associated with “negative mental health
symptoms” (2014). These negative mental health symptoms were described as deficient behavioral control, anxiety, depression and negative affect. The study further found that racial microagressions are not only linked, but predictive of mental health complications. Yet, the argument in favor of mascots, merchandising, and Manifest Destiny persists, whilst the negative effects of racial microagression through racial slurs carried by team names and mascots continue to disregard the wishes and welfare of many Native Americans not among the 504 who responded to the poll.

Whose voice, whose choice? Despite the outcomes of the aforementioned poll, and its relatively small number of unverified respondents, no single authority can speak for or against the collective opinions of all Native people. Nor do the authors, although Native themselves, speak for all Native people. However, the history of the treatment of Native Americans since European settlers first arrived in North America, and the research related to Native American health and wellbeing speaks for itself. Is hypocrisy also an all-American value? And, how does one assess the monetary gain of mascots and merchandising when weighed against the cost paid by Native Americans in terms of lost dignity and dehumanization?

Student Highlight: Tina Lincourt M.A.

Interview by Sloan Henry & Amanda Young

I am a tribal member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and a 4th year clinical psychology student at Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, CA in their PsyD program. I am the treasurer for Division 35, Section 6 and the graduate student member of CLDI Leadership Development Program that creates opportunities for psychologists of color to develop their leadership skills in order to serve in leadership positions within APA divisions. I am also a student member of the Society for Indian Psychologists.

What are your research interests, and what are you currently working on right now? I am interested in research involving culture, severe mental illness, and substance abuse. My dissertation was on the associations between the MMRI-2-RF Substance Abuse (SUB) scale and substance use disclosure during the clinical interview in a forensic inpatient setting. I found that although there were many areas of association, there were also areas of discordance which spoke to the presence of response bias and the clinical utility of using the MMPI-2-RF in conjunction with the clinical interview in order to gain a better picture of substance use in this population. I successfully defended my dissertation on September 20, 2016.

I presented a poster at SIP that looked at the profiles of Native American patients in a forensic inpatient psychiatric facility and I am interested in continuing my research in the areas of culture, personality assessment, severe mental illness, and substance use. I am interested in looking into the various presentations of psychopathology within and across culture including how that varies on personality assessment profiles.
**Why did you get involved in section 6?** I wanted to become involved in a community that help to remove barriers for indigenous women who want to achieve careers in psychology. I wanted to be a part of a community that promoted the indigenous woman. By being part of a community of indigenous women, I believe that we can help with career trajectories as well as support when our women face external barriers. I also liked the idea that I could be a part of a community that addresses issues that are salient to indigenous women. Like Melinda says: “we are small in number but we are mighty”.

**What are these barriers you talked about?** Some of the barriers that I believe that we face as indigenous women are knowing of the opportunities that are available to us as well as how to access these opportunities. I believe that by sharing with other indigenous women that they can go to college and be successful in academic settings, that we may see more of us seeking higher education. I also believe that discrimination and macroaggressions negatively impact our self-esteem which impacts the way that we see our abilities to be successful in mainstream culture.

**What are these barriers that you have experienced?** When I first graduated from high school, I very much wanted to be a psychologist. I just didn’t see a way to go on to college. I am an older student, and I didn’t realize this was an opportunity to go back to school and create a career for myself. I did pursue higher education as an adult and found a community (Reservation 2 Graduation and Society for Indian Psychologists) that supported me and helped me to navigate through graduate school. I have also been exposed to discrimination and macroaggression throughout my life and believe that through the spirit of community, we can help to alleviate some of the negative impacts that these have on us. My experience of becoming connected to communities of indigenous psychologists have been such and I am excited to carry on the tradition of community as I progress in my career.

**What are your current goals?** I’m currently in the internship match phase of my academic career and I am looking to find a place that will allow me to continue to build on my clinical and research skills while remaining exposed to a diverse population.

**What are your future goals after finishing school?** Long term, I would like to specialize in severe mental illness, forensic psychology, and substance use disorders. I would like to also remain active in APA and SIP to continue to serve within my community as a change agent for up and coming psychologists. I believe that although we have come a long way, that we still have an opportunity to build a smoother path for those who are coming behind us and that there were continue to be many challenges that we will need to face as not only a community of psychologists, but as a community of indigenous psychologists.

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**Connect with Us !!**

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  [https://www.facebook.com/groups/322864942920/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/322864942920/)
Member Highlights

Congratulations to Dr. Willis & Dr. Peters!

The Council of National Psychological Associations for the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Interests (CNPAAEMI) honored two of Section 6's own as winners of the 2017 Henry Tomes Award for the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Psychology.

Diane J. Willis, PhD was honored with the Henry Tomes Award for Distinguished Lifetime Contributions to the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Psychology. She is the past-past president of Section 6. Dr. Willis is one of our distinguished elders who has contributed to over 50 years of service to the profession of psychology. Dr. Willis' work has contributed to the empowerment of ethnic minority individuals and communities through her teaching, mentoring of young professionals, research, publications, clinical practice, and advocacy. She is an enrolled member of the Kiowa tribe in Oklahoma and has been highly influential in promoting the well-being of American Indian communities.

Wendy M. K. Peters, PhD received the Henry Tomes Award for Significant Contributions to the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Psychology by an Emerging Leader. She is the past president of Section 6 and is currently the Chair of Division 18, Psychologists in Indian Country. Dr. Peter's efforts have been deeply rooted in service to American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians. Her leadership skills and efforts to influence public policy regarding Native peoples stand out as some of her greatest accomplishments. Dr. Peters was also appointed to the APA's Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs and just completed her three-year term last December. Outside the APA, Dr. Peters recently began a new position as a researcher in the Center for Interventions, Treatment, and Addictions at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Peters is Native Hawaiian.

Congratulations to Melissa Wheeler!


Thank You to Kee Straits and Others for their Community Service.

Kee Straits, PhD along with a few other Native women were interviewed while at Standing Rock Thank You Dr. Straits and other members who contributed through prayer, direct service, financial support, and other ways to NODAPL. Take a look at some of the work of the women at Standing Rock!! Native Girls & Women Rock!!

http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2016/12/16/the-powerful-voices-of-women-at-standing-rock/
The acceptance of the Native American apology from Division 39, Section 9 and the Society of Indian Psychologists (SIP) accepting the apology

Division 35, Section 6 will be highlighting members’ involvement in social justice & environmental justice activities throughout the year. Please share with us your efforts so that we can highlight in our upcoming newsletter.
Celebrate & Connect
Division 35 Section VI Awards 2017
Call for Nominations

Division 35 Section 6 Keepers of the Fire Keeper Awards
In the Spirit of Indigenous wisdom and cultures, the awards for Division 35, Section 6 recognize those members of the section who are also allies or members of the Native community who perpetuate Indigenous ways of knowing, fuel the fires of scientific knowledge, and weave the threads of community together in ways that honor and sustain the legacy we each represent.

The Sweet Grass Award (Award $500)
For Native peoples, Sweet grass is a sacred plant that attracts positive energy, beauty and sweetness. In some Native teachings, it is considered the sacred hair of Mother Earth and its fragrance reminds people of the gentleness, love, and kindness the Earth mother has for the people. Traditionally braided in 3 strands, each strand represents love, kindness, and honesty. This award honors the Indigenous psychology professional who epitomizes these values and virtues through the dedication of outstanding professionalism in service such as the following:

1. Mentoring and support Indigenous women
2. The development (or adaptation) of research methods or models for treatment and intervention that are ethnically, culturally and gender appropriate for Indigenous women;
3. Advancing the understanding of the psychology of Indigenous women; the scientific understanding of features of ethnicity, culture and class among indigenous women which pertain to the psychology of women; adequate education and training in service and investigative approaches related to indigenous people; and
4. Advocate on behalf of Indigenous women in policy, clinical and research findings in the area of services to AN/AI and other Indigenous women, children, youth, and families.

To be selected, the awardee will have demonstrated significant contributions in one or more of the above listed activities and be viewed as an Elder figure to the Native community of which she/he is a member.

In the spirit of the Carolyn Wood Sherif Award, the individual will be invited to present at the APA convention, SIP annual conference, (whichever they may be attending). The winner will also chair a section 6 program in the year following the award presentation.

Eligibility: Should be a member of Section 6 and preferably mid to senior career level (or more than 10 years since graduation). Non-members are welcome to apply and agree to become a member of Division 35 and Section 6 once selected to be the award

**Requirements:** At least 1 suggested criteria met or similar with rationale and explanation

**Sage Award (Award $500)**
Native peoples use Sage to purify and drive out negative energy. It is also thought to be more medicinal than Sweet grass and has physical healing properties. Sage is often used for releasing what is troubling the mind and for cleansing spaces and sacred items. The Sage award is for the Indigenous Early Career Professional who is emerging as a professional and is an exemplar of Native values in a role of service leadership to the Native community. The candidate for this award should demonstrate values representative of feminist and Native leadership in teaching, service, or clinical practice. The feminist leader’s work should focus on the needs of the Indigenous community which might include but is not limited to addressing Native student pipeline challenges, health/mental health disparities, environment and health intersections, and related topics. Encouragement of publication of research or service activities within feminist and/or Indigenous based publications. The development of a future program (for a conference in the subsequent year) based on awardees interest/research will also be supported.

**Eligibility:** ABD/Intern to Early/Mid Career (0-10 years after graduation)
Nominations, including self-nominations, are welcome.
For the 2017 Sage Award, the applicant must:
- Be an early career psychologist (graduated no more than 10 years ago).
- Be current members of APA Division 35 and Section 6. Non-members are welcome to apply and agree to become a member of Division 35 and Section 6 once selected to be the award recipient. Membership information and application can be found at http://www.apadivisions.org/division-35/membership/index.aspx.

**Requirements**
A one-page statement articulating the applicant’s contribution to the commitment (or relevance of proposal) to feminist goals and contributions to AN/AI/Indigenous feminist psychology, including the applicant’s reflection on it’s impact on AN/AI/Indigenous communities (and/or families).
- A letter of support/recommendation from a faculty who is familiar with the applicant’s work.
- The applicant's curriculum vitae.

**Deadline:** May 1st, 2017

Applications that fail to meet the guidelines described above will not be reviewed.
**Cedar Award** (Award $500)
Cedar has many restorative medicinal uses. Cedar is used in sweat lodge and fasting ceremonies for protection. Cedar branches cover the floor of many sweat lodges and shade the arbors at Sundance. Some say the plant is a guardian spirit and wards off the bad spirits. The Cedar award is for the Indigenous graduate student who demonstrates the above mentioned qualities (1-4). The graduate student has completed research or is involved in service focused on the needs of Indigenous communities. The research or service has made a meaningful contribution to Native American/Indigenous Psychology and/or local Indigenous community efforts. The students will have an opportunity to present their work at subsequent conference with support from the section. Encouragement of publication of research or service activities within feminist and/or Indigenous based publications.

**Eligibility**
Nominations, including self-nominations, are welcome.
For the 2017 Graduate Student Award, the applicant must:
- Be currently enrolled in a graduate academic program.
- Be current members of APA Division 35 and Section 6. Non-members are welcome to apply and agree to become a member of Division 35 and Section 6 once selected to be the award recipient. Membership information and application can be found at [http://www.apadivisions.org/division-35/membership/index.aspx](http://www.apadivisions.org/division-35/membership/index.aspx).

**Requirements**
- A one-page statement articulating the applicant’s contribution to the commitment (or relevance of proposal) to feminist goals and contributions to AN/AI/Indigenous feminist psychology, including the applicant’s reflection on its impact on AN/AI/Indigenous communities (and/or families).
- A letter of support/recommendation from a faculty who is familiar with the applicant’s work.
- The applicant's curriculum vitae.

**Deadline: May 1st, 2017**

Applications that fail to meet the guidelines described above will not be reviewed.

Electronic Applications Accepted at div35sect6@gmail.com

Questions please contact Anita Mihecoby, PhD dearcoby@gmail.com
Membership Information

We invite you to become a member of or new section! Please contact Keith Cooke at 202-336-6197 or div35@apa.org
Newsletter Editor: Melissa Wheeler at melissa.wheeler@und.edu
*You do not have to be an APA member to join our Division*

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to create a forum where Alaska Native/American Indian Indigenous Women can:

- network and get mentoring and support from each other
- to provide outreach, guidance and mentoring to Indigenous female students of psychology
- to promote the fundamental objectives of the American Psychological Association and the Society for the Psychology of Women
- to advance understanding of the psychology of indigenous women to further the development of research methods and models of treatment and intervention that are ethnically, culturally and gender appropriate for indigenous women
- to advance the scientific understanding of features of ethnicity, culture and class among indigenous women which pertain to the psychology of women
- to accentuate the importance of adequate education and training in service and investigative approaches related to indigenous people
- to advocate on behalf of indigenous women psychologist with respect to the formation of policies of Division 35, and
- to provide a systematic forum for the presentation of police, clinical and research findings in the area of services to AI/AN and other indigenous women, children, youth, and families at APA meetings.