

SPECIAL COMMENTARY

From the Society of Indian Psychologists

The Society of Indian Psychologists (SIP) convened in New York City in August, 1987 to become an official sub-division of the American Psychological Association (APA). SIP is a charitable, non-profit organization which represents an increasing number of professional psychologists who work with American Indian and Alaska Native people. The National Center looks forward to establishing a supportive relationship and to encouraging the promotion of mental health research within the Society and in the individual communities of its members. Toward this end, Dr. Teresa LaFromboise, President of SIP, has been invited to describe the functions and activities of her organization.--The Managing Editor

In conjunction with the American Psychological Association's annual convention, the members of SIP held a brief, but important, business meeting to establish and issue a statement of our purpose, to adopt objectives for the 1987-88 year, to announce the selection of this year's American Indian APA Minority Fellows, to elect new officers, and to address other issues and topics presented for discussion.

We additionally were pleased with the selection of topics presented at the APA convention addressing American Indian issues. Joseph Trimble, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, Western Washington University, presented two papers entitled "Stereotypic Images, American Indians, and Prejudices" and "Psychological Diversity Among American Indians: Methods and Concepts". Candace Fleming, Ph.D., Puget Sound Indian Health Service, presented a paper on "Family Therapy with American Indians". Arthur Blue, Ph.D., Brandon University, discussed "Problems and Issues in Self-Identity Development: A Clinical Perspective"; Robert Annis and Barry Cornblum, also faculty members at Brandon University, addressed the issue of "Self-Identity of Indian Children: A Cognitive Perspective".

An announcement of the 1987-88 American Indian APA Minority Fellows included: Dolores Big Foot, University of Oklahoma; Connie Cowles, University of Vermont; Deborah Jones-Saumty, Oklahoma State University; Justin McDonald, University of South Dakota; Annette Miles, Oklahoma State University, and Avie Rainwater III, Oklahoma State University. Drs. Arthur Blue and Damian McShane are the American Indian representatives on the Minority Fellowship Advisory Board. In addition to the Clinical and Research awards, it

also was announced that fellowships in the field of Neuroscience are now available. Deadline for applications is January 15, 1988. Interested applicants can call (202) 955-7761 for further information.

The statement of purpose adopted by the Society is as follows:

1. To operate a national organization for non-profit, charitable, and professional purposes which include a commitment to the improvement of quality psychological services for American Indian/Native people; to address the unique cultural backgrounds, heritage, and traditions of Indian tribal communities, and to increase the SIP membership.
2. To establish an organization for American Indians and Alaska Natives who are vitally concerned about the improvement of the mental health status of this special population; to invite the solicitation of clinical and research solutions; to continue with the publication of a newsletter and to promote further involvement of members in the APA and other professional associations.
3. To create, through an exchange of skills, expertise, and experience, opportunities for career development, positive inter- and intra-personal relationships, the enhancement of Indian peoples; to sponsor conference presentations for the benefit of Indian people, to publish the findings of successful programs and distribute this information to SIP members and the newsletter audience.
4. To stimulate and promote research development on counseling and psychology intervention for publication to enlighten students, faculty, clients, and others concerned about the development and welfare of Indian and Native people.
5. To encourage Indian people to become more actively involved in the improvement of the quality of their health and to encourage SIP members to serve as facilitators within Indian and Native communities in an effort to promote the relevance of psychology.
6. To recommend to federal, state, and local government possible legislation which would improve the educational, counseling, and leadership involvement of American Indian people.

The following objectives were adopted for the 1987-88 year:

1. To build the membership of SIP;
2. To assist in the recruitment of American Indians to state and national psychological associations;
3. To publish a newsletter;
4. To become more involved in networking among our members;
5. To provide educational technical assistance to universities and legislative and accrediting offices.

The next annual meeting of SIP will be held in conjunction with the annual convention of the APA in Atlanta, Georgia from August 12-16, 1988. The themes of the convention are "Issues of the Black Male in Society and Adjustment of Refugees and Immigrants to the United States".

Teresa LaFromboise, President

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