

WELCOME FROM NADINE KASLOW, Ph.D., ABPP  
ON BEHALF OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

On behalf of the conference steering committee, it is my distinct pleasure, as well as an honor, to welcome you to the 2002 Competencies Conference: Future Directions in Education and Credentialing in Professional Psychology. Competencies 2002 is a multi-organization, multi-national working conference. We are delighted by the caliber and diversity of the delegates who are participating in this conference.

We would like to thank the sponsoring organizations that are listed in our conference program. These organizations provided financial support to this conference above and beyond the travel and registration costs for their delegate's attendance. This conference would not be a reality without their generous support. While some of you are coming to this conference as delegates representing these sponsoring organizations, and others are coming as delegates at large (sometimes representing other constituency groups), it is our hope that now that the conference has begun, these distinctions will not be relevant to your participation in this conference. We trust that each of you will consider the "best interests" of the profession, not just your constituency group, when engaging in the deliberations. Thus, we hope that all of us will come together and work as a whole, bringing multiple perspectives and broad ranging expertise to tackle current day challenges facing us as professional psychologists.

Hopefully, this working conference will build upon the outstanding contributions made by many groups and individuals in the field and will advance our conceptualization and assessment of a broad array of competencies relevant to professional psychology. By bringing together experts in education, training, and credentialing from the United States, Canada, and Mexico, the conference participants can collaboratively identify areas of consensus and difference related to the following competency domains: (1) scientific foundations of psychology and research; (2) ethical, legal, public policy/advocacy, and professional issues; (3) supervision; (4) assessment; (5) individual and cultural diversity; (6) intervention; (7) consultation and interdisciplinary relationships; and (8) professional development. These competency domains were identified via a survey completed by individuals representing various educational, training, and credentialing groups. We also anticipate that we will further our understanding of the training, acquisition, and assessment of competencies that fall within the rubric of specialties and proficiencies. Further, expanding upon what we know from psychology and other professions, we trust that we will have a more effective, comprehensive, developmentally-sensitive, and culturally competent armamentarium of assessment strategies related to the broad array of competency domains pertinent to professional psychology.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the panelists who have agreed to give so graciously of their time and expertise: Cynthia Belar, Ph.D., Nicholas Cummings, Ph.D., Nadya Fouad, Ph.D., Jane Halonen, Ph.D., Roger Peterson, Ph.D., Joseph Rallo, Ph.D., Lynn Rehm, Ph.D., Edward Sheridan, Ph.D., I. Leon Smith, Ph.D., and Derald Wing Sue, Ph.D. I trust that their wisdom and insights will inform the work of the groups. I also want to express my sincere gratitude to my thoughtful, hard-working, well-networked, and visionary colleagues on the Steering Committee: Kathi A. Borden, Ph.D., Frank L. Collins, Jr., Ph.D., Linda Forrest, Ph.D., Joyce Illfelder-Kaye, Ph.D., Paul D. Nelson, Ph.D., Joseph S. Rallo, Melba T. Vasquez, Ph.D., and Mary E. Willmuth, Ph.D.

We would like to thank Jeannie Beeff (NCSPP) for her time and perseverance in arranging for us to receive continuing education credits for this conference. We are deeply indebted to Kafi Bethea at Emory University Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences for coordinating and organizing the resource room materials. We also appreciate Jeff Baker, Ph.D. for his effective and efficient management of the conference website. I want to say a special thanks to Joan Freund, at APA's Education Directorate, for managing the listserv for the conference. Finally, this conference simply could not have come to fruition without the incredible dedication, commitment, and creativity of APPIC's Central Office staff. Please join me in thanking Connie Heccey, MPA, APPIC's Executive Director, as well as Tia Clark and Danielle Lane.