Re: APA Leadership Development Institute

Dear Dr. Gray

I am requesting participation in the American Psychological Association (APA) Leadership Development Institute. I am an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and a member of the Society of Indian Psychologists. Even though I have spent many years as a mental health provider in the past, I am fairly new to the world of academia and research. I would be interested in a Mentee Fellow position.

As a member of an American Indian tribe, growing up on a reservation, and working in several reservation communities, I believe defining the role of a mentor cross-culturally is very important. I also believe that having the wonderful opportunity to procure a graduate degree as an American Indian puts me right in line to give back, not only to my home reservation, but to Indian Country overall.

One of my main objectives as a mentee would be to establish professional goals and plot a career plan. An overarching focus of this main objective would be to ultimately prepare myself to give back by being a mentor to other early career professionals and students.

I have been able to build some experience in the area of networking and collaborative partnerships but this tends to be an ongoing learning experience and very salient in building good faith relationships both in Native and non-Native communities. Perhaps my greatest growing edge at this point would be maneuvering institutional/political systems, building expertise in finding funding for projects and grant writing, and overall building on the leadership experience that I do possess.

Currently, I do not have funds available for participation in the leadership institute but will be vigilant in looking for opportunity to procure those funds. Thank you for considering my request to participate in the Leadership Development Institute. Please feel free to contact me at 701-777-3720 if you would have any further questions and/or concerns.

Paula M. Carter, Ph.D.

Research Assistant Professor

National Resource Center on Native American Aging

Center for Rural Health

UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences

701-777-3720

paula.carter@med.und.edu