



February 19, 2016

Subject: Letter of Nomination for the Distinguished Career Contribution to Service Award for Daniel V. Foster, PsyD

Dear friends and colleagues:

We are writing this letter of support for Daniel V. Foster, PsyD, to nominate him for the Distinguished Career Contribution to Service Award sponsored by our Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity, and Race. Consistent with our culture and in the spirit of consensus, concord, and harmony, our group respectfully submits this letter to formally represent our nomination and full support of Dr. Foster. We do, indeed, consider ourselves highly qualified to provide the section committee with information concerning Dan's qualifications and thus we approach the task with a great deal of enthusiasm, excitement, and pride largely because we have found our professional and personal relationships with him to be most rewarding and enlightening. Moreover, we do strongly believe that his professional accomplishments and activities over the past 30 or more years are noteworthy. He has managed to strike a wonderful balance between his clinical practice, and service to his chosen profession.

We have known Dan for a long time; some of us in fact have known him or about for a few decades. During that time, we served on panel presentations at professional meetings especially the Society of Indian Psychologists conference. His work in all these areas has been impressive, thoughtful, well organized, and conducted at an extremely high level of professionalism. In our opinion, Dan is an excellent candidate for the Distinguished Career Contribution to Service Award. We will assume that the review committee has read through his curriculum vita, is familiar with some of his work, and aware of his wonderful career in psychology. Thus, let us focus briefly on his contributions to the field with respect to the education and training of ethnic minorities and his commitment to providing mental health services to Indian and Native communities.

Throughout our many years of association with Dan, we have found him to be an enthusiastic and energetic supporter of young Indian and Native students and aspiring counselors and clinicians. In some cases with which we are intimately familiar Dan provided well-considered advice and counsel about a wide range of career issues. These included not only the development and promotion of research careers, counseling, educational, and clinical fields, but assistance in

thinking through major professional and institutional alliances that would support the most rapid accomplishment of their goals. Over the years, he has been a tireless advocate for ethnic-minority mental health programs by calling them to the attention of many competent students and professionals in the field.

There are a number of young Indian and Native students now entering the field who owe a great deal to Dan's support and guidance. Dan also is singularly responsible for developing and promoting a series of ethnic psychology training opportunities that have been designed to educate young, promising psychologists as to the expectations and opportunities that relate to receiving support.

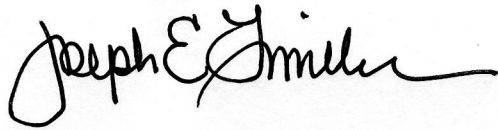
Dan also is extremely knowledgeable about the issues and debates emerging in the field of community and multicultural psychology; he has spoken eloquently about the topics and issues on numerous occasions. He will bring that wealth of knowledge and experience with him no matter where he resides; and the students and his colleagues will be constantly challenged to critically examine the significance and importance of the cultural and ethnic variable in psychological research, service, and development.

It is readily apparent from Dan's extensive clinical and mental health experiences that culturally competent mental health services quickly become irrelevant if ethnic minorities do not find their way into them. The need for this type of knowledge has been increased by a general trend in the psychological application of culturally based knowledge to understand complex psychosocial interventions. Dan's assessment and summary of the influence of culturally based knowledge is best captured in a statement once offered to one of us by one of his esteemed colleagues. Not long ago he pointed out that "This need for expert knowledge has been increased by a general trend in the social application of knowledge where decision making has tended to gravitate away from those most immediately affected toward institutions increasingly remote and insulated from feedback. This trend," he maintains, "has grave implications not only for individual freedom, but also for the social ways in which knowledge is used, distorted or made ineffective." We believe you and your colleagues will find this theme embedded in most of Dan's accomplishments.

Ethnic, cross-cultural, and cultural psychology is a complex and challenging field, owing in part to the elusiveness of culturally embedded constructs, and the need to forge close, collaborative relations with host communities and researchers from other disciplines. There are the critics, too, who consider a cross-cultural emphasis unscientific and unfitting for traditional psychology. Dan has met the challenges head on and has rapidly earned respect from many in the field for his insights, his administrative and clinical skills, his creative and seminal work in multicultural theory and issues, and his sensitivity to culturally unique perspectives. Given the range and depth of his experiences Dan will represent the distinction associated with the Distinguished Career Contribution to Service Award.

In closing, we hope that we have provided you with some sense for the important and significant contributions that Dan has made in ethnic minority psychology and in the training of students, especially those working in the mental health and substance abuse fields. Dan's commitments and accomplishments merits our nomination and our highest recommendation for Division 45's Distinguished Career Contribution to Service Award

Sincerely,



Joseph E. Trimble, PhD
Distinguished University Professor
Professor of Psychology



Gayle Skawen:nio Morse, PhD
Associate Professor
Licensed Psychologist
President-elect, Society of Indian Psychologists



Arthur (Art) W. Blume, PhD
Professor of Psychology
President, Society of Indian Psychologists

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Carolyn Barcus, EdD
Emeriti Faculty USU
Licensed Psychologist