



HENRY KENDALL COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

February 6, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my interest in the Mentee Fellow position for the Leadership Development Institute through APA's Division 45. I am currently an Applied Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Tulsa and part-time staff psychologist at the Indian Health Care Resource Center of Tulsa. To demonstrate my ability to be an excellent mentee and my capability to develop the needed skills to become a leader in the field of minority psychology, a brief outline of my interests and expectations as a mentee are described below.

During my undergraduate career at Oklahoma State University, I worked with Dr. John Chaney and Dr. Maureen Sullivan. At Oklahoma State University, I developed a passion for working with Native American children and was selected for the American Indians into Psychology summer program in 2000. During that summer I participated in multiple clinical and research projects with a minority health focus and attended my first Society of Indian Psychologists conference. Being a member of the Osage tribe, that summer was extremely rewarding as I was able to work in a clinical setting with Osage children which solidified my desire to work with Native youth and their families in a research and/or clinical psychology setting.

Because of my passion for clinical child psychology, I applied to the Clinical Child Psychology Program at the University of Kansas. Luckily, I was accepted and was mentored by an extremely talented faculty. Although my lead research advisor, Dr. Michael Roberts, research interests did not focus on minority issues, I was encouraged to continue my work in that area. My dissertation was titled *The Trajectory of Hope: A Longitudinal Study of Native American Children and Adolescents*. In addition to my doctoral studies at KU, I received an additional master's degree in Indigenous Nations Studies, which continues to demonstrate my desire to work within an ethnic minority focused area.

During my time at KU, I sought opportunities to independently improve my leadership skills with Native American students, I participated in the Bridge program, a joint program between the University of Kansas and Haskell Indian Nations University, which encourages and supports minority students who wish to become involved in research experiences. As part of this experience, I was required to collaborate between

two separate academic institutions, which are clear skills needed in someone that desires to become a leader. Recently, I was awarded the Rising Star Award from the College of Human Sciences at Oklahoma State University. This award is given to a person that has demonstrated significant accomplishments in the early stages of their career. I hope to continue displaying those characteristics, but with a more specific focus on ethnic minority psychology.

Although I received great mentorship in graduate school and currently am working with colleagues at the University of Tulsa who provide me with great support, since leaving Oklahoma State I have felt a lack of mentorship from other psychologists of color. At the last Society of Indian Psychologists conference I attended I was elected interim Secretary and have continued to be involved in monthly conference calls to document the minutes and gain insight into how the organization is led by more senior level psychologists and professionals. In order for me to continue to grow and receive guidance from more senior level ethnic minority mentors, the Leadership Development Institute that has been created within Division 45 seems like a perfect vessel. My future goals entail holding leadership positions within the Society of Indian Psychologists as well as other national organizations. I feel strongly that the Leadership Development Institute would be a catalyst for helping me obtain these goals by teaching me the skills that I need to facilitate and move through multiple systems.

The components (e.g., conference attendance, monthly conference calls, etc) listed as part of the Leadership Development Institute seem to be manageable for me in addition to my current expectations at the University of Tulsa. I recently met with my department chair, Dr. Judy Berry, and she is in support of providing me with additional funding for conference travel if needed. However, she will need a more detailed list of need if I am selected as the mentee.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my application for the Leadership Development Institute. I hope to have the opportunity to represent the Society of Indian Psychologists on a more national level and improve my skills as a leader in the field of minority psychology. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or to request further information.

Sincerely,



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