

## 2011 CEMRRAT GRANT PROPOSAL

Joint Proposal Submitted by the Society of Indian Psychologists' Ethics Committee  
and the APA Ethics Committee

(a) Problem, Goals and Activities: The Ethics Committee and Office has been working hard to create an understanding of cultural diversity as central to ethical awareness. A question that arises often in the APA Ethics Committee meetings is: How does our understanding of culture and diversity inform our discussions and decisions? Members of the APA Ethics Committee recognize that cultural understandings based on dominant culture have highly influenced the development of the APA Ethics Code, what we see as ethical and how we reason and decide about ethical dilemmas. Thus committee members have been and are seeking ways to expand and deepen our understanding of other cultures and bring that understanding to our work on the Ethics Committee.

The Ethics Committees of the Society of Indian Psychologists (SIP) and the American Psychological Association (APA) are requesting CEMRRAT funds to support a joint endeavor to build greater connections and understanding about cultural differences and similarities between the two cultures and organizations and how these inform the work of each committee (the ethical issues addressed, ethical reasoning and decision-making, adjudication, educational programming, and consultations). We are seeking funds to support opportunities for members of the two committees to meet for initial conversations and to develop plans for future joint projects to further the development and education of our members about the centrality of cultural influences on ethics. Both Ethics Committees have as part of their mission an educational function to improve their members understanding and implementation of ethical practices. With this goal in mind, possible future projects include joint presentations and publications.

APA Ethics Committee Background: The APA Ethics Committee has been building a stronger diversity focused agenda both internal to the committee workings and externally by focusing much of their educational presentations on diversity topics. Internal to the Committee, each committee meeting involves a standing item on the agenda focused on diversity and often involves inviting an outside speaker with expertise on a diversity topic to join us for a luncheon and lead a focused discussion. Guests have included:

Spring, 2011--Dr. Carolyn Barcus telling stories about her upbringing in rural Montana, her journey as a psychologist, the development of the Utah State University psychology program and its focus on recruiting and supporting students of color in the master's and doctoral program, and ethical issues from the perspective of a Native psychologist.

Fall, 2010—A videotape of Dr. Mark Jordan, Professor, Harvard Divinity School, and panel of speakers on LGBTQ youth and religion.

Spring, 2010-- Dr. Elyn Saks, Professor of Law at University of Southern California talking about her personal, work, educational and other life experiences living with schizophrenia.

Fall, 2009--Drs. Irene W. Leigh and Virginia Gutman from Gallaudet University talking about deafness as an aspect of diversity and the challenges that psychology students who are deaf experience in their training and professional development.

External to committee work, the Ethics Committee has been offering diversity-focused educational programs at the APA Convention. Examples of such programs include: “When Aspects of Client Diversity Collide: Ethical Considerations,” “Am I Competent Enough? Latina/o Voices and Diversity,” and “Ethics and issues of cultural competence and diversity.” At the last two National Multicultural Conference and Summits, the Ethics Committee has presented multiple programs on diversity issues. Most recently, the Ethics Committee presented two symposium at the 2011 NMCS in Seattle: “The Ethics of Assessing Cultural Competence” and “Ethics in International Settings.”

The Ethics Committee has also established with Division 44 and APAGS, four student travel awards for students of color who are sexual minorities to attend the NMCS. Students submit essays about critical ethical issues at the intersection of race/ethnicity and sexual orientation. The Ethics Committee made its first four awards at the 2009 NMCS and this January at 2011 NMCS honored the second set of awardees. In addition to these efforts of outreach to students, many of the ethics workshops offered by the Ethics Office focus on presentations to students from diverse and non-dominant cultural backgrounds.

At our recent spring committee meeting, Dr. Barcus during her conversations with the APA Ethics Committee suggested that members of the APA Ethics Committee might want to attend the upcoming 23th Annual Convention of American Indian Psychologists and Psychology Graduate Students to be held June 27-28<sup>th</sup> in Logan, Utah. Attending the convention would allow members to gain insights into Indian cultures and also to meet with members of the SIP Ethics Committee. Initial conversations have begun between Drs. Art Blue, Chair Emeritus, and Dan Foster, Incoming Chair, of the SIP Ethics Committee and Linda Forrest, Chair, APA Ethics Committee. Together we have decided to submit this proposal to CEMRRAT seeking funding to support the development of joint work between the two Ethics Committees.

(b) Procedures: The SIP and APA Ethics Chairs will continue their communication via email and conference calls to further develop the plans for a meeting of members from both Ethics Committees at the Annual Convention of American

Indian Psychologists and Psychology Graduate Students. At the meeting, future plans will be developed for joint endeavors.

(c) Expected Outcomes/Work Products: Given that the members of the two Ethics Committees have not yet met, the actual outcomes have not yet been determined. Members of the two Ethics Committees plan to meet to develop next steps.

In working with Native cultures, relationships are critical. Thus, a key product coming out of this meeting will be the initiation of an on-going relationship between members of the APA Ethics Committee and Native psychologists. The demonstration of this product will be an on-going commitment from both the APA and SIP Ethics Committees to maintain contact including, but not limited to, continued attendance at the annual SIP meeting. It is our hope that written products will ultimately emerge from this collaboration. However, such endeavors must be developed within the context of the relationships and identification of specific publications or presentations would be premature at this time.

From the perspective of the APA Ethics Committee we hope that committee members will develop a deeper understanding of Indian cultures and how Indian cultures frame and provide guidance about ethical issues, reasoning, and decision-making. The ultimate goal of this joint endeavor will be to inform and educate SIP and APA members about the intersection of ethics and cultural considerations. The exact shape of the outcomes will be determined as the relationship develops and the project unfolds. Regular communication with CEMRRAT will be part of determining the desired outcomes/products.

(d) Proposed Budget: We are requesting travel, and lodging/meals for 3 members of the Ethics Committee to attend the upcoming convention of the American Indian Psychologists and Psychology Graduate Students

Travel: \$500. X 3 individuals

Lodging: \$69.00 X 3 nights X 3 individuals

Meals: \$50.00 X 3 days X 3 individuals

Total: \$2571.00

#### Matching Funds

APA Ethics Office will cover the airfare, lodging and meals of the Director to attend the conference. The funds will come from honoraria received from ethics education workshops conducted by the Ethics Office.

The Society of Indian Psychologists (SIP) and their host, Utah State University (USU), will provide matching funds in a number of ways.

1. SIP and Utah State University will provide lodging and meals for members of the SIP Ethics Committee for the duration of the Retreat (Saturday and Sunday, the first two days of the convention) at the upcoming 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the

American Indian Psychologists and Psychology Graduate Students to be held June 27-28<sup>th</sup> in Logan, Utah. Further SIP will provide funding for Dr. Art Blue, Chair Emeritus to attend the convention and the joint meetings of the two Ethics Committees.

2. SIP/USU will provide the venue for the joint Ethics Committee meeting.
3. SIP will provide lunch for a joint APA-SIP Ethics Committee meeting during the convention.
4. Consistent with its' policy of inclusion and to prevent cost from deterring participation to the greatest degree possible, SIP does not charge a conference registration fee. However, SIP and Utah State University cover all the convention costs including the venue and breakfast each morning. SIP would continue to cover the conference costs, including the participation of the APA Ethics Committee at subsequent annual meetings.

(e) This proposal is consistent with two of the CEMRRAT goals. Of the five goals described in the CEMRRAT Request for Proposals, we believe outcomes of this work would: (a) promote and improve multicultural training in psychology, and (d) provide national leadership for diversity and multiculturalism in education, science and human services.

Under funding priorities, #7 Leadership Development for Advancing Diversity and Multiculturalism, is the best fit for this joint proposal being submitted by the SIP and APA Ethics Committees. Initially, we hope to promote leadership in ethics education focused on multicultural issues among Ethics Committee members. With SIP's Ethics Committees help, the APA Ethics Committee as an APA governance group has substantial reach via its educational mission to improve the cultural awareness, knowledge and skills of its members. Helping psychologists understand that cultural diversity is central to ethics will improve how psychologists respond to ethical issues and dilemmas they face. We also believe that the educational programs and publications that will arise from this joint work will ultimately improve multicultural training in psychology.