

July 10, 2017

Fullbright U.S. Scholar Program Selection Committee
U. S. Department of State
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
1400 K. Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: Arthur W. Blume

Dear Selection Committee:

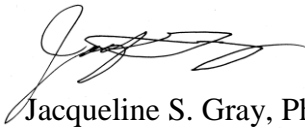
It is my honor to recommend **Dr. Arthur W. Blume** for the Fullbright Distinguished Chair Award. I have known Dr. Blume for over 10 years as a mentor and a colleague and believe he is an exceptional candidate for this award. I first met Dr. Blume as a mentor in the Native to Native Mentoring program sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Later on, we worked as colleagues on projects related to indigenous psychology with the American Psychological Association (APA) and our roles reversed to a degree when he became President-Elect and later President of the Society of Indian Psychologists (SIP) where I was the Past-President and a member of the Council of Elders. We have served on committees together providing an indigenous viewpoint to leadership with both SIP and APA. Throughout all of our interactions I have been impressed by Art's gentle guidance, leadership, and impact on indigenous psychology. He is always willing to offer advice and guidance from his experience and to accept the same from others who have traveled paths before him. I also contributed a chapter to a three-book series that Dr. Blume edited and has recently been published on *Social Issues in Living Color*. I was also involved in an apology to Native Americans offered by several groups from APA and Dr. Blume lead the delegation to accept the apology at the National Multicultural Conference and Summit in Portland, OR in January of this year.

Dr. Blume is a Professor in Clinical Psychology at Washington State University-Vancouver and a recognized scholar in indigenous psychology as noted by his receiving the Joseph E. Trimble Distinguished Contributions to Native and Indigenous Psychology this summer at the 125th American Psychological Association Conference from the Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race. When I first met him as my mentor, Dr. Blume was recognized with his research on substance abuse. In more recent years he has been a leader, scholar, spokesperson, and social activist for indigenous psychology among Indigenous psychologists, national organizations, and most of all with indigenous people themselves. His heart is devoted to doing things to help The People. He has interacted and listened to people across cultures to provide wisdom when he can, leadership as it is needed, and learning what is needed instead of jumping in to help in a way that may be harmful. He is an excellent communicator who starts with listening from the heart and considering what is said before he speaks. I am very impressed with Dr. Blume's ability to build bridges where conflict surfaces, pull together multiple perspectives, and find common ground to build upon.

Given my many levels of interaction with Dr. Blume, I believe he would make an exceptional Chair in Cultural Competence at the National Centre for Cultural Competence at the University of Sydney in Australia. Dr. Blume's willingness to share and learn would be of benefit to both countries and indigenous people on both continents. Although the discipline of Psychology is relatively new to the Western, White, European cultures, many indigenous cultures have addressed Psychology as part of the whole person for thousands of years. Dr. Blume's understanding of multiple perspectives will be invaluable in working with other indigenous cultures to better understand their approaches to psychological wellness. By spending time and learning about the culture, he can add a depth to the knowledge of indigenous psychology that those viewing it from the outside could never understand. Because of my own travels to New Zealand to work with the Maori and in University settings, I believe Dr. Blume's work would benefit from the interaction with Australian Aboriginal, Torres Strait, and Maori indigenous peoples and build a stronger paradigm of a culturally inclusive perspective of psychology.

Dr. Arthur W. Blume has my strongest recommendation for the Fullbright Distinguished Chair Award to the National Centre for Cultural Competence at the University of Sydney in Australia. Without exception, he would be an exemplary candidate who would make the best use of the time and funds during his time "down under." Please feel free to contact me if you have any specific questions as to Dr. Blume's credentials or abilities.

Respectfully,



Jacqueline S. Gray, PhD
Associate Director/Research Professor
Center for Rural Health