

Wendy M. K. Peters
105 Bramblebush Trail
Dayton, Ohio 45440

CNPAAEMI Leadership Development Institute
Society of Indian Psychologists
Jacque Gray, SIP President

February 6, 2012

RE: SIP Fellowship Application for the LDI

Dear Society of Indian Psychologists:

Please this accept this letter of interest as my application for appointment as a Fellow in the Leadership Development Institute (LDI). In applying for this nomination, I affirm I am willing to provide my own funding, should it be necessary, to meet any requirements for participation in the program.

My qualifications: Having recently graduated in 2011, I am an early career Ph.D. in Psychology with an interdisciplinary academic background in the areas of culture, diversity, complexity, and societal dynamics. My research and interests have largely been in the area of social psychology via inquiry into the culture, values, and other societal phenomenology in reference to Indigenous peoples, predominantly the Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. My dissertation work and research was cross-cultural, international in scope, and focused exclusively with and for Native peoples. I am of Native Hawaiian ancestry and heritage and although I reside in the continental U.S., I maintain close ties with family and professional colleagues in Hawaii and keep current with significant issues that impact the Native Hawaiian as well as other native communities.

My expectations for participation: Coming from a non-traditional academic background, my years and experience in the educational setting affirmed the challenges and issues broadly relevant to ethnic minorities. In fact, I was most definitely an ethnic minority among my peers and colleagues all throughout the duration of my graduate studies. Despite the rewards reaped from my academic choices, I yearned to reconnect to the Native community and to be among those with shared values and a worldview more similar to my own. As a Leadership Fellow, I hope to be paired with a mentor who also shares a worldview and values similar to my own, or at least a mentor with greater sensitivity to my cultural differences and whose work and professional objectives are in service to underserved and marginalized ethnic minorities in the U.S.

Many years ago, I set a trajectory for myself and pursued higher education as a means to make a difference to the peoples and communities for whom I care deeply. As I understand it, the

Leadership Development Program will help me to develop my skills and abilities such that I might better define and clarify my professional goals, learn to negotiate institutional and political systems in advocacy of the people I represent, grow and develop a professional network from which to establish partnerships and collaborative relationships, and ultimately, to pay it forward in a way that will cultivate the next and subsequent generations of minority leaders and to engender my own capacity for self-reliance, self-determination, and empowerment.

My contribution to the LDI: I have always had a propensity for cultivating and maintaining relationships which have grown into a global network of colleagues, contacts, and associates. These personal and professional associations have provided me with opportunities to get involved with organizations that administer community services and advocate for social justice at local and international levels. Furthermore, my non-traditional background also brings with it a significant knowledge of technology and an appreciation for the advantages and far-reaching ramifications of emerging technologies and their potential applications. Most recently, these endeavors have included my volunteer service to SIP as a website developer and webmaster. In addition, I feel that my technical expertise and skills may also be of considerable value as both a Leadership Fellow and a future leader because computers, information technology, and internet technology have become essential and integral to success and prosperity today and is something that has permeated so much of business, organizations, and the culture of today's and tomorrow's youth.

Ultimately, my true passion seeks to incite change within the seriously underserved native communities by creating opportunities to develop and implement programs, organize people and events, and communicate positive ideas and images that contribute to and foster well-being for Native peoples. Having an opportunity to channel my energies into a project that benefits the Native community, where I would receive the guidance and collaboration from an experienced mentor would be a valuable and unparalleled professional experience that I don't feel I would be able to obtain without such a program or opportunity as the LDI.

In closing, I would want my nomination and participation in the LDI to be one that contributes to creating more sustainable communities, prosperous people, and a healthier planet. I feel that my experience and background make me a well-qualified applicant, and that my skills and interests are also a good fit for the fellowship. My contact information and detailed experience are also noted in my curriculum vitae.



Wendy M. K. Peters, Ph.D.

Webmaster, SIP Executive Council

Listserve Manger and Hospitality Coordinator, Division 35 Section 6 (Indigenous Women)