



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242

June 26, 2006

A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert, PhD
President, APA Division 45 - Society for the Psychological Study
of Ethnic Minority Issues
Howard University Hospital
Department of Psychiatry
2041 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20060

Dear Dr. Caldwell-Colbert:

This is an invitation to licensed members of APA Division 45 to become trained to offer disaster mental health assistance on American Red Cross (ARC) disaster relief operations. The APA Practice Directorate's Disaster Response Network (DRN) and ARC's Southeast Louisiana chapter are sponsoring a day-long training on Wednesday, August 9, 2006 (one day prior to the start of the APA Convention) in New Orleans. The course will be ARC's Foundations of Disaster Mental Health. The training is offered at no cost to participants and APA's Continuing Education Office offers 6.5 continuing education credits to participants who have successfully completed the training.

A lesson learned from last year's hurricane season is that the disaster services community could benefit from recruiting and training more minority volunteers to help serve the public. Disaster survivors often seek out helpers from the same ethnic or racial background for understanding and support. We would like to include more Division 45 psychologists among the ranks of our Disaster Response Network members to better help survivors begin the challenging process of sorting out how to move on from tragedy.

Fact sheets about the course and APA's DRN program and an advertisement about this particular training are attached to this letter. Members in your association who are interested in the training are asked to please contact me for additional information and/or to register.

Thank you for sharing information about this training opportunity with your membership.

Sincerely,

Marguerite I. Schroeder
Director, APA's Disaster Response Network

cc: APA Board of Directors Task Force on Multicultural Training and Disaster Response