

## **APA Committee of Psychology Teachers at Community Colleges (PT@CC) 2010 Annual Report**

**PT@CC Members:** Chair Julie Penley, PhD (El Paso Community College, TX); Wynn Call, PhD (Mesa Community College, AZ); Susan Frantz, MA (Highline Community College, WA); Solomon Fulero, PhD, JD (Sinclair Community College, OH); Lillian McMaster, PhD (Mohawk Valley Community College, NY) and Larry Venuk, MS (Naugatuck Valley Community College, CT). Margaret Madden, PhD (SUNY Potsdam, NY) served as the Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) liaison to the PT@CC Committee. **Staff Liaison:** Martha Boenau

The APA Committee of Psychology Teachers at Community Colleges (PT@CC) met in March 2010 and September 2010, and held regular conference calls to discuss ongoing programs, activities, and new initiatives. By the end of 2010, nearly 1700 psychology teachers were participating in PT@CC. (This number *includes* approximately 1500 APA Community College Teacher Affiliates and 200 APA Members/Associates employed at community colleges.)

### **Priorities: Ongoing and New Activities**

- Strengthen, promote, and recognize excellence in teaching through convention programming, regional meetings and teaching conferences, and the dissemination of teaching-related materials.
- Increase membership through strategic recruitment initiatives including mass mailings and special events for faculty.
- Identify and share promising practices through the development of “how to” guides. In 2010, the committee announced a new resource on *IRBs: A Community College Planning Guide*.
- Promote professional development opportunities for faculty such as a new online program called PsycCHAT. The first PT@CC PsycCHAT was *A Conversation with David Myers* held in January 2011.
- Planning for the PT@CC Teaching Resources Award in 2011 to recognize and share innovative instructional techniques such as teaching activities, resources, presentation slides, or other materials that community college teachers have developed and used in face-to-face, hybrid, or online psychology classes.
- Planning for the PT@CC Student Presentation Contest in 2011 to promote active learning by means of electronic presentations (such as videos, webpages, and PowerPoint presentations) created by psychology students currently enrolled at a community college or other two-year school.
- Continue efforts to develop a PT@CC Fact Sheet to share information about the unique characteristics of community colleges in higher education. This project will promote greater understanding about the importance of community colleges and will highlight some of the ways in which PT@CC could collaborate with other APA governance groups to disseminate information from APA to the community.

### **APA Convention Programming in 2010**

PT@CC sponsored a reception and five hours of convention programming in 2010 including:

- **PT@CC Symposium on *Dealing With Conflict in the Classroom***  
Presenters: Wynn Call, Mesa Community College; *Conflict in the Classroom*; Ann Ewing, Mesa Community College, *Stereotype Threat*
- **PT@CC Invited Address: The Diane Halpern Lecture**  
Presenter: Wayne Weiten, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, *Textbooks in Transition: Controversies and Practical Realities*

- **PT@CC Symposium on Teaching Study Skills through the Introduction to Psychology Course**  
Presenters: Sue Frantz, Highline Community College; Donelle C. Posey, Washington State University, Tri-Cities; Robin Musselman, Lehigh Carbon Community College
- **PT@CC/Psi Beta Session – Innovations in Teaching at the Community College**  
Presenters: Kris Leppien-Christensen, Saddleback College, *Podcasting Made Easy*; Ly T. L. Tran-Nguyen, Mesa Community College, *Using Psychophysiological Recordings to Demonstrate the Empirical Nature of Psychology*
- **PT@CC Invited Address**  
Presenter: Martha Ellis, Associate Vice Chancellor for Community College Partnerships at the University of Texas System, *Creating a Myriad of Dreams: Psychology at Community Colleges*
- **PT@CC and Psi Beta Awards Ceremony and Reception**

### **Publications and News about APA PT@CC**

News about PT@CC appeared in the *Psychology Teacher Network (PTN)* newsletter, a quarterly publication for teachers of introductory psychology. The *PTN* features articles, activities, book reviews, announcements, and other news items for psychology teachers in high schools and 2- and 4-year colleges and universities. Articles about the teaching of psychology at community colleges also appeared in the *APA Monitor on Psychology*.

### **PT@CC Electronic Project Contest**

With financial support from the APA Education Directorate and Allyn & Bacon Publishing, PT@CC sponsored the eighth annual “APA Electronic Project Contest.” This competition was developed to recognize creativity and technical competence of outstanding community college psychology students. A national group of PT@CC members served as a judging panel, chaired by Larry Venuk, PhD, and awards were given for first, second, and third place.

### **Newly Elected Board Members**

In 2010, the PT@CC Committee held its sixth nationwide election. Ladonna Lewis, PhD (Glendale Community College, AZ) and Craig Cowden, PhD (Tacoma Community College, WA) were elected for three-year terms of office beginning in January 2011. Sue Frantz was elected as the 2011 chair.

### **Outreach to Community College Faculty**

To provide special programming for community college faculty at regional and national meetings, PT@CC members hosted events at the annual meeting of the Western Psychological Association (WPA) and the Advanced Placement (AP) Psychology Reading. As described above, PT@CC sponsored five hours of programming at the APA Convention.

Each year, the APA Education Directorate distributes mass mailings to PT@CC. In 2010, there was a spring mailing that included information updates and certificates for recognition of academic achievement.

The committee continues to sponsor its listserv, the PT@CC Electronic Update, so that online discussions and information sharing can occur. The listserv provides a means for networking and helps to build a sense of community among psychology faculty. The committee wishes to share the resources of APA with faculty at community colleges and hopes to expand the network of teachers and students involved in APA.