

**CEMRRAT Update**

**APA CEMRRAT2 Task Force: Activities Highlights for the Year 2003**

The APA CEMRRAT2 Task Force met twice in 2003, once via conference call on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and again on June 30<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC, for its only face-to-face meeting. During this year, the Task Force experienced changes to its membership, budget, and OEMA staffing. Due to the conflict situation in Iraq, Task Force member **Victor De La Cancela, PhD**, was called to active military service. As a result, Dr. De La Cancela notified OEMA that he would be unable to serve as the 2004 Task Force chairperson or be actively involved with the work of the Task Force until further notice. At the request of the Task Force, **James E. Freeman, PhD**, agreed to extend the term of his current leadership role. The Task Force further agreed that the membership vacancy should be filled, temporarily, and therefore requested that its parent board, the APA Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI), make an appointment with the understanding that the possible candidates should be advised that the appointment is temporary (until such time that Dr. De La Cancela's military service status changes and he is able to return). BAPPI appointed former CEMRRAT member **Ena Vasquez-Nuttal, EdD** to the Task Force. In addition, the Task Force was advised that as a result of recent APA budget shortfalls, its 2004 budget has been reduced by 30 percent. Furthermore, OEMA staff member Adisa Ajamu resigned from his position, and Chanta Goode assumed his duties and responsibilities associated with the work of the Task Force. Current Task Force members are: **A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert, PhD**, Ena Vasquez-Nuttal, EdD, Victor De La Cancela, PhD (military service status), James E. Freeman, PhD (2004 chairperson), and **Frederick Leong, PhD**. The APA Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs (OEMA) continues to provide administrative staffing support to the Task Force.

During its 2003 meetings, the Task Force accomplished the following: (a) Established its 2004 CEMRRAT implementation grant funds priority categories and allocations; (b) identified winners of the 2003 Suinn Minority Achievement Awards (the Suinn Award is presented to those graduate programs exhibiting excellence in ethnic minority recruitment, retention, and training in psychology); (c) reviewed and endorsed the draft version of the introductory psychology textbook resource booklet developed by its Textbook Initiative Work Group (TIWG), funded by the APA Council of Representatives (C/Rs); (d) received a report about the production and distribution of its CEMRRAT2 **Martha E. Bernal, PhD** memorial bookmark; (e) defined the parameters and content areas to be included in its progress report to the C/Rs; (f) agreed to prepare a proposal to solicit convention program hours that would outline elements of a symposium to be presented during the 112<sup>th</sup> APA annual convention in Hawaii that will focus on "best practices" models/showcase innovative and dynamic projects that have been supported by its Implementation Grant Funds; (g) prepared comments/feedback to the APA Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) related to the establishment of an Accreditation Advisory Council and proposed accreditation issues to be discussed at the 2003 APA Education Leadership Conference (i.e., dissemination of information regarding the history of CEMRRAT, outline those concerns that have been raised in the past, emphasize the "added value factor" of diversity to high quality education, and request that the APA Committee on Accreditation and the newly created Advisory Council membership composition always include experts in multicultural competency, so as to ensure that ethnic minority issues are among highest priorities); (h) agreed to continue efforts to solicit support from the American Psychological Foundation for the possible development and submission of a grant application that will be used to support student travel to the APA annual convention in order for students to be present when their program is awarded the Suinn award (only student nominations of Suinn award winning programs will be eligible); (i) discussed projects and activities for future directions; (j) discussed strategies promoting the visibility of CEMRRAT-related activities through various APA communication venues; and (k) defined future challenges such as building linkages with ethnic minority serving institutions (i.e., HBCUs, Tribal Colleges, and Hispanic Serving Institutions), and promoting a greater emphasis on the infusion of ethnic minority issues into scientific training areas of psychology.

The Task Force expresses sincere appreciation to the APA C/Rs for its continuing support, whose funding contributes to the continued APA-wide implementation of the CEMRRAT Plan for ethnic minority recruitment, retention, and training in psychology.