

THE PUBLIC INTEREST DIRECTORATE'S ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE

Funds provided by the Science Directorate's Academic Enhancement Initiative to the Public Interest Directorate's Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs are used to support its *Psychology and Ethnic-Minority Serving Institutions (PEMSI) Initiative*. This initiative is based on the assumption that significant improvement in the ethnic minority pipeline in psychology requires that efforts be made to strengthen not only the departments/programs of psychology at ethnic minority serving institutions, but also their relationships with the broader community of psychology. (Ethnic-minority serving institutions include Historically and Predominantly Black Colleges and University (HBCUs), Hispanic- Serving Institutions (HSIs), Tribal Colleges and University (TCUs) and community colleges with majority ethnic minority student populations.) Thus, PEMSII seeks to increase the visibility and stature of psychology in ethnic-minority serving institutions, and to strengthen APA's interest in and support of these institutions. AEI funds support two PEMSII-related projects: *Promoting Psychological Research and Training on Health Disparities Issues Grants (ProDIGs)* and *Survey of the Status of Psychology at Ethnic Minority-Serving Institutions*.

PROMOTING PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING ON HEALTH DISPARITIES ISSUES (ProDIGS)

Purpose

The ProDIGs initiative seeks to increase the capacity of ethnic minority serving postsecondary institutions and faculty to engage in health disparities research and to encourage student involvement in health disparities research training at early levels of the educational pipeline. Such enhancement is promoted through award of small grants (and a program of professional development activities) targeted to early career faculty at these institutions for the purpose of supporting activities associated with the preparation of an initial research or program/curriculum development application for federal or foundation funding (e.g., from such agencies as Center for Mental Health Services [CMHS], Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education [FIPSE], National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities [NCMHHD], National Institute on Drug Abuse [NIDA], National Institute on Mental Health [NIMH], the National Science Foundation [NSF] and others). It is expected that funded activities will be completed within 18 months after award and that the grantee will prepare a major funding proposal within 24 months. Approximately 5 to 7 grants, each in the approximate amount of \$5000 to \$6500 will be awarded each year. All program/curriculum development application efforts must incorporate provisions for student research training, and whenever possible, research training applications also should include student researchers. All ProDIGs applicants (research and program/curriculum development) are required to submit a detailed concept paper (2 to 4 pages) of their proposed research or program/curriculum development effort.

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