

DP2KB Summer Institute

Diversity Project 2000 and Beyond: Moving Forward in the Millennium

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When I first became involved with Diversity Project 2000 (**now called Diversity Project 2000 and Beyond**) I was the Eastern Regional Vice President of Psi Beta. The year was 1994 and the Psi Beta National Council was holding its annual meeting during the American Psychological Association's convention. The place was Los Angeles, California, and the National Council was discussing Diversity Project 2000. It was at this National Council meeting that I met two dynamic women: **Sandy Ladd** and **JoAnn Brannock**. Their vision and enthusiasm for this program were infectious. Little did Sandy and JoAnn know that they had empowered the National Council to see the potential of this new program. The maiden program was a four-day Summer Institute held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association. **Nolan Penn, PhD**, of University of California, San Diego, was the keynote speaker. Renown psychologists of color served as guest speakers and local graduate students were invited to serve as mentors for the program participants. Five Psi Beta students representing five regions of the nation were selected to participate in the program. Psi Beta students from the greater Los Angeles area were recruited to participate in the program as well.

Funding for this maiden program was provided by the Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs (OEMA), American Psychological Association (APA), the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), and the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS). **Carol Tracy**, Executive Director of Psi Beta, provided numerous hours of in kind service to get this program off to a great start. Without the financial support of the American Psychological Association, Carol's assistance, and Sandy and JoAnn's dedication, the maiden program would not have been successfully launched. However, none of this would have been possible without the support of Psi Beta's National Council under the leadership of **Ann Garrett Robinson, PhD**, and the commitment of **Henry Tomes, PhD** Executive Director, Public Interest Directorate, APA. Sandy Ladd, with assistance from Jo Ann Brannock and **Don Irwin**, wrote the proposal to seek funding from the APA. The Psi Beta National Council proposed the creation of a Diversity Project 2000 Committee. At that time, I was Eastern Regional Vice President of Psi Beta. Because I am a former APA Minority Fellow and live in Washington, DC, I was asked to chair the committee and to present the proposal to Dr. Tomes at the APA. After that initial presentation to APA, Dr. Tomes encouraged the Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs to assist in the future development of the program.

The conversations concerning the concept for this program predated the maiden program by three years. In fact, **Philip Guzman, PhD**, **Nolan Penn, PhD**, and Dr. Tomes gave the initial encouragement to pursue the development of this program after meeting with Psi Beta's National Council. It was at this time that Sandy Ladd, JoAnn Brannock, and Don

OEMA Communiqué July 2002

Irwin began writing the concept paper to develop Diversity Project 2000. In the meantime, **Alberto Figueroa-García, MBA**, Program Officer, Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs (OEMA), APA, had the clear vision of how such a program could be navigated within APA. It was Alberto's indefatigable support that positioned this project to be launched successfully from within the American Psychological Association. Alberto was among the APA officials to see the Diversity Project 2000 proposal.

Sandy Ladd, in collaboration with JoAnn, created a national model for training future psychologists of color to address the needs of the global community. After Sandy and JoAnn co-directed the first Diversity Project 2000 Summer Institute, Sandy single-handedly nurtured the program which has evolved and will be implemented for the eighth year at the APA convention in Chicago, 2002. Today this model includes ten cooperative learning leadership exercises, a formula for developing a diversity program, and multiple strategies for developing mentoring networks. In 1996, I became involved with Diversity Project 2000. In 1999, Sandy and I were asked to coauthor a handbook on this model. I am pleased to report that the handbook will be submitted for publication this year. Funding for this handbook has been provided by **Bertha Holliday, PhD** Director, Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs, APA.

Two individuals who have given countless hours of unselfish time and commitment to this program, are Dr. Bertha Holliday and **Lula Beatty, PhD** of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Dr. Holliday continues to seek funding for this program on a yearly basis and writes the evaluation report for each Summer Institute. She has also supported me in my endeavors to implement a modification of this program at the regional level. Despite her hectic schedule during the APA convention, Dr. Holliday makes a presentation at each Summer Institute and makes herself available to the DP student participants throughout the Summer Institute. Dr. Beatty has supported this program both financially and structurally. An integral part of this program is to present the research findings of ethnic minority psychologists. Dr. Beatty has provided the funding for these researchers to make presentations during the Summer Institute.

Diversity Project 2000 and Beyond has been a huge success. The model program has evolved to the point that the former program participants are now implementing the summer institute for this national program. **Tawa Witko, PsyD**, a DP Alumna from the maiden program, has served as the West Coast Co-Director since 2000, and **Wanda Proctor**, DP Alumna from the 1995 program, became the East Coast Co-Director this year. Sandy and I will be selecting former Diversity Project 2000 Alumni to direct future Summer Institutes. These students, who will have an opportunity to co-direct the summer institute, will be selected for a four-year cycle. Tawa and Wanda have been selected to serve as the first set of co-directors for this program. Psi Beta has formalized the Diversity Project 2000 Committee, now chaired by **Jaye Van Kirk**, and the National Council each year continues

OEMA Communiqué July 2002

to encourage qualified students from the five regions of the United States to submit applications for the program.

The Diversity Project 2000 and Beyond Executive Committee is appreciated of the support and assistance the program has received over the past eight years. For questions regarding this program, please contact Robin Hailstorks or Sandy Ladd, through APA's Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs.

News From St. Phillip's College — Another DP Success Story

The Diversity Project 2000 and Beyond (DP2KB) Summer Institute continues to have an impact on community college students of color. A student participant at the 2001 SI, **Shawn S. Jones**, recently received the 2001-2002 William N. Wasson Student Leadership and Academic Award offered by the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA). The award recognizes outstanding students who are active participants, employees, and/or volunteers in collegiate recreational sports departments. Named after Dr. William N. Wasson, the founder of the NIRSA, the award is intended to identify undergraduate and graduate students who represent only the highest standards and deserve to be recognized for their accomplishments. Award selection criteria include self-improvement through activities, academic success, volunteerism, leadership, and promoting inclusion. This year's Selection Committee had a record number of nominees, 102, making the competition and ultimate selection difficult.