
BEA Award in Support of Conferences and Workshop 2025

Workshop or Conference name: 2026 APPIC Membership Conference

Sponsoring Organization: APPIC

Conference or workshop date: 5/6/2026

Number of times the organization has won the award in the past 2 years: 0

Goals and objectives

The clarity and nature of the conference or workshop goals and objectives and how they will enhance the training of faculty and supervisors of graduate students, interns, and/or postdoctoral fellows in psychology.

The Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) is committed to its mission of facilitating access, fostering development, and supporting implementation of quality education and training in Health Service Psychology (HSP). The 2026 APPIC Membership Conference provides a rich opportunity for internship Training Directors, postdoctoral fellowship Training Directors, supervisors, and leaders within HSP to learn best practices, engage in professional development, and build community while networking. All of these factors are critical to professional longevity, and participants are empowered to bring knowledge back to their local institutions for the benefit of their educators and trainees (graduate students, interns, and postdoctoral fellows). The 2026 APPIC Conference is entitled, “Navigating Change: Reimagining Psychology Training” and will explore the dynamic and evolving landscape of HSP in the context of broader societal shifts. We are planning a program that addresses the significant shifts in training programs, including advancements in technology, changes in competency and licensure requirements, uncertainty in the context of organizational change, and evolving trainee needs and learning styles, among other topics.

Leadership

The qualifications of the person(s) identified to plan and lead the conference or workshop, relative to the topic of focus. Included in the qualifications should be evidence of national or regional leadership (e.g., publication of scholarly works related to education and training, participation/leadership in past workshops, etc.)

Drs. Denise Mercurio-Riley and Natasha Maynard-Pemba, elected APPIC Board members, are co-chairing the 2026 APPIC Membership Conference. Dr. Mercurio-Riley has national leadership experience in conference planning through her APPIC Board of Directors role, co-chairing the 2024 APPIC Membership Conference. Dr. Maynard-Pemba has previously chaired conferences through her role as president of the Association of Counseling Center Training Agencies (ACCTA). Their

conference planning is supported by the APPIC Conference Planning Committee (CPC), comprised of elected APPIC Board members (Drs. Amy Silberbogen, Heather Yardley, Shiloh Jordan, Sara Hagstrom, Ann Lagges, Madeleine Goodkind), the APPIC Executive Director (Dr. Mariella Self) and two external members (Drs. Anya Froelich and Jacquelyn Smith). All APPIC Board members have extensive national leadership and most board members have previously served on conference planning committees. The keynote, plenary, and workshops presented at the conference will be selected by the CPC; the majority of presenters are APPIC members (internship and postdoctoral training directors and supervisors).

Participants

The qualifications of conference or workshop participants relative to the topic of focus, including their potential for implementing outcomes of the conference or workshop toward enhancing graduate education.

The 2026 APPIC Membership Conference is for APPIC members, comprised of internship and postdoctoral training directors as well as supervisors and educators, across training settings in both the United States and Canada. Currently, there are 845 internship (94% APA accredited) and 263 (43% APA accredited) postdoctoral program members, with an anticipated 250-300 attendees present at the APPIC Conference in 2026. Conference programming is developed with this audience in mind and is highly valued by attendees for its information regarding current and trending issues/topics, best practices for training future generations of psychologists, training program administration, and networking/resource sharing. Attendees have the opportunity to receive 11 hours of continuing education for their engagement in the conference, in addition to non-CEU knowledge pertinent to psychology training. Feedback from continuing education surveys indicates that participants learn and benefit from the resources provided at the conference and that these resources are implemented at their internship and postdoctoral training programs.

Impact

The estimated or potential impact of the conference or workshop in terms of the diffusion of new ideas resulting from its outcomes in the education community appropriate to the proposal's focus.

The APPIC Membership Conference is the primary avenue for educators across all training settings to convene and learn from speakers and one another, with a focus on training. Thus, we anticipate high rates of attendance at this conference (between 250-300 attendees). Knowledge gained at this conference has the potential to be 1) shared with national training councils and local training committees, 2) implemented within training programs to the benefit of psychology interns and postdoctoral fellows, 3) influence generations of future psychologists. As one specific example, in addition to programming associated with the conference theme, APPIC holds a “New Training Director Workshop” at each APPIC Conference with over 100 participants typically in attendance. This program provides critical information and guidance on training program administration and responsibilities as well as tangible resources. The impact of this critical scaffolding for new training directors and their trainees (particularly given the statistics that the average training director stays in the role for approximately three years) cannot be underestimated in regard to implementation of high-quality psychology education and training.

Budget

The clarity and completeness of the conference or workshop budget, how realistic it is, how the grant funds are to be used to offset expenses incurred (e.g., travel, registration, speaker fees), as well as provide strong justification for the requested amount and whether the conference or workshop can be offered without BEA funding.

The estimated budget for the 2026 APPIC Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana is as follows: Speaker Honorarium and Travel for Keynote and Plenary (\$12,000), Food and Beverage (\$140,000), Fees for conference planner (\$17,000), and room/travel expenses paid by APPIC for liaisons and Committee Chairs (\$30,000). The total estimated budget is \$199,000. Of note, APPIC provides meals and refreshments to attendees during the conference. In addition, the above budget does not include cost of travel/room for APPIC Board Members participating in and contributing to the success of the conference.

Given that APPIC hosts a conference every other year, we are confident in our budgeting. We are requesting funds to offset the costs of the keynote and plenary speakers. Though the conference will be offered without BEA funding, APPIC hopes to keep costs as low as feasible for attendees in order to encourage participation from sites that have limited budgets to support their attendance. To this end, we have sought sponsorships from a range of vendors and would appreciate additional support from BEA.