

**Proposal for Award in Support of Conferences and Workshops  
on Graduate and Postgraduate Education and Training in Psychology Application**

- 1. Title and Date(s) of the Conference or Workshop:** Workshop series on Teaching Models and Methods in Graduate Programs of Psychology [Modelos y métodos de enseñanza en psicología a nivel universitario]
- 2. Name(s) of group organizing the Conference or Workshop:** Puerto Rico Psychology Association [Asociación Puertorriqueña de Psicología]
- 3. Name, email and phone number of contact person for proposal:**
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**Context** – The Puerto Rico Psychology Association (PRPA) is committed both to the development of psychology on the Island and to the development of psychologists in their academic and professional endeavors. The issue of teaching and supervision in our graduate programs has been a matter of concern for many years and there have been well-attended sessions on this topic in PRPA annual conventions. Given the increase of graduate programs of psychology on the Island in recent years, there are many psychologist teaching courses, be it full or part-time, as well as supervising practicum experiences. As a result, the PRPA decided in 2012 to sponsor a two-day symposium on the issue of university teaching. The symposium was attended by over 200 people including professors and graduate students and identified a continued need for experiences related to teaching methods and models. As a result of this experience the PRPA also published an edited book of papers from the symposium titled “The challenge of teaching at the university level: Examples from psychology”. The book and the symposium are in Spanish as will be the proposed workshop series, given that all courses in our graduate programs are taught in Spanish.

**Series Structure, Goals and objectives**

In a follow-up to these efforts the PRPA Board has decided to offer a workshop series. It will consist of eight three-hour workshops which will occur from August to October, 2015. The series goal will be to strengthen the teaching and supervision skills of faculty as well as graduate psychology students. Particular emphasis will be given to technological innovations and virtual teaching alternatives. Specific objectives include to:

- a) Identify the challenges of teaching psychology in graduate programs today
- b) Facilitate the development of knowledge and skills about teaching models and methods
- c) Facilitate critical analysis of the context that facilitates or hinders the application of acquired knowledge and skills
- d) Develop strategies to facilitate the implementation of acquired knowledge and skills in the participant's institutions
- e) Evaluate each workshop separately and the series in its entirety

The structure will be as follows:

1. The university today: Challenges and possibilities

2. Teaching models in graduate programs of psychology
3. Teaching methods and their relationship to teaching models
4. Specific methods: How to deliver interesting and interactive lectures
5. Specific methods: Group processes
6. Specific methods: Practicum and internship supervision for diverse specialties
7. Specific methods: Technological innovations and virtual courses
8. How to evaluate student learning and transition to participating institutions

## Leadership

Resources for these workshops will include:

**Dr. Irma Serrano-García** a Retired Professor of the Department of Psychology at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) with 40 years of experience teaching and training about teaching. She has received various awards including the Distinguished Contributions to Education and Training in Psychology Award from the American Psychological Association. She will facilitate workshops and serve as workshop series coordinator.

**Dr. Antoinette Alom Alemán** is a cognitive psychologist who has taught about learning theories and Vygotsky's socio-historical approach. She has been providing faculty training in Puerto Rico for various years.

**Dr. Wanda Rodríguez Arocho** also a Retired Professor from the University of Puerto Rico, and recent winner of the Interamerican Society Psychologist of the Year award, has taught courses about teaching models and methods at the UPR for many years and has also provided training in the Department of Education of the Dominican Republic and in the Department of Psychology at Universidad de Costa Rica.

**Dr. Yarimar Rosa Rodríguez** is a Clinical psychology currently at the Psychology Institute of the University of Puerto Rico. She is well versed in techniques of interactive virtual education and clinical supervision and training.

All resources have publications related to the workshop series topics and have been working together for various years now.

## Participants

Faculty and graduate students of all 11 psychology graduate programs in Puerto Rico will be invited to participate. Although the experience will be open to any professor or student who wishes to participate and pays for his/her enrollment, we have requested that each Chairperson of each program commits to disseminating the workshop series among faculty and graduate students, commits to supporting activities whereby participants can share their acquired skills and knowledge with peers and pay for at least half of the cost of enrolling in the series. In response the person who receives this support will commit to training graduate students and early career professors in the subject matter at hand. Chairpersons of most programs have reacted enthusiastically to this idea and are considering this expense in next years' budget (See included letters of support). We are expecting an enrollment of a minimum of 30 to a maximum of 45 participants.

## Impact

The commitment of the different program chairs, and the participation of psychologists who teach at the different institutions should facilitate dissemination of the skills and knowledge acquired in the workshops. One of the workshops will include an analysis of the educational context in our graduate programs at present (Workshop 1) and the final meeting will include a section devoted to identifying barriers to implementation of new teaching models and methods in the different institutions and to developing strategies to overcome these barriers. We would participants to be amenable to trying out new models and methods. A three month follow-up will be undertaken via an electronic survey to evaluate the impact of the experience on the different programs.

## Budget

We include the budget for this activity. We request APA support to cover the cost of remunerating the facilitators which amounts to \$4,800.

Category		
Workshop coordinator	\$1,000	\$1,000
Workshop facilitators	\$600.00 per workshop	\$4,800
Teaching materials	\$35.00 per person (30 participants)	\$1,050
Rental of meeting room	\$175.00 per workshop	\$1,400
Snacks for breaks	\$3.00 per person per workshop	\$720
Government fee for continuing education	\$60.00	\$60
Expenses related to follow-up survey	Staff support to set-up and administer electronic questionnaire, analyze data and write report	\$250.00
Total		\$8,280