

**Minutes for the TOPSS Committee Zoom Meeting
September 18, 2023, 7:30 PM Eastern time**

Participating on call: Terri Lindenberg, Virginia Welle, Dana Melone, Natasha Alson, Julie Gowans, Emily Polacek, Melissa Rogers, Tony Puente, Jennifer Thompson, Jenni Redifer, Emily Leary Chesnes, Aliza Epstein, Sue Orsillo

Unable to participate: Debra Kawahara

Discussion on Teacher Burnout

The Committee was asked for input to inform a Board of Educational Affairs Precollege and Undergraduate Education panel discussion on how BEA might be able to address teacher burnout. Ideas discussed included:

- Evidence-based tools for school districts to use to assess or address teacher burnout.
- APA could focus a future Stress in America survey on work and teaching, tapping into APA's focus on applied psychology.
- Statements addressing teacher stress.
- Sharing resources that address being more productive with fewer constraints or sharing school success stories.
- Addressing how schools are adding new initiatives with taking anything off teachers' plates.
- A focus on how to measure new programs.
- Encouraging teacher appreciation.

APF Myers Fund Discussion

The Committee was asked to discuss its goals for 2024 to inform the Committee's request for funds from the APF David and Carol Myers Fund to Support Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools.

Results of TOPSS Committee member survey on professional development were shared to inform the discussion; top rank ordered answers are listed below with highest priority items first:

- Providing professional development to help teachers (1) design and deliver a quality course (2) infuse research, (3) select high-quality teaching and assessment resources, (4) infuse diversity and representation, and (5) teach challenging content were rated as high priority or priority for overall professional development goals.
- Priority populations for professional development (rated as high priority or priority) included teachers (1) with limited education and experience teaching psychology, (2) from under-resources schools, (3) from underrepresented communities, and (4) in urban settings.
- Activities to consider when allocating funds included (1) need-based coverage of travel, food, and lodging, (2) need-based registration costs, (3) partial or full coverage of travel, food, and lodging for all, and (4) free registration for all.
- Top measures that capture professional development impact very well or well were (1) attendees self-reported learning, (2) attendee satisfaction ratings, and (3) follow up surveys that ask how teachers implemented what was learned.
- 62% of committee members thought professional development offerings should include a mix of APA/TOPSS and resources from other sources.

Committee members agreed that the 2024 Myers funding be allocated to continue support of the new EDI initiative. Gender was mentioned as a possible next area of focus.

The Committee discussed which methods TOPSS might use to deliver professional development in 2024. The end of the Clark workshop and lower attendance at the Oregon State workshop give room for TOPSS to consider how to use professional development opportunities to have the most impact. Ideas discussed included:

- There was initial support of the idea to issue a Request for Proposals for colleges and universities to host a 1-3 day teaching workshop. This could allow for a workshop or workshops in different parts of the country.
- Regional networks continue to be helpful sources for professional development.
- The hybrid workshop at Oregon State received high participant reviews (from both in-person and online participants), but it was mentioned that hybrid events can take away from the in-person experience.
- The AP reading and NCSS conference were mentioned as potential places to offer professional development to teachers. A session on teacher burn out was mentioned.
- Past online webinars or workshops have been successful and can reach a large number of teachers.
- Different models can be considered.

The Committee also discussed the APF Professional Development Awards to support conference attendance. There was general support for these awards but we should be sure we are reaching teachers who could most benefit from these opportunities, such as new teachers.

TOPSS College Faculty Representative: Call for nominations

A call for nominations for the next college faculty representative has been posted online and Committee members were encouraged to send the call to any faculty members of interest. The nomination deadline is September 30.

TOPSS Workplan for 2024

The Committee was invited to review and comment on a proposed work plan for 2024.

Next calls

The next TOPSS call will be held on Monday, October 16, at 7:30 PM eastern. It will be a 90-minute call.

We can determine next month if the Monday, November 20, at 7:30 PM eastern, if needed. The final call of 2023 will be held on Monday, December 18, at 7:30 PM eastern.