

Dear Fellow NJABPsi Chapter Members,

It's been another great year for the New Jersey Chapter and I am proud to have been elected President of this fantastic organization. I sincerely thank you all for giving me this opportunity. I especially would like to thank outgoing president Dr. Jim Walker and each one of our previous board members for all that has been accomplished during their administration. Through the hard work and dedication of our previous officers, board members, committee chairs and committee members much has been accomplished. I am certain that I speak for everyone when I say that we are grateful for their efforts. I look forward to working with my new fellow board members, Dr. Monique Swift, Psy.D. (Secretary) and Simone Duncan M.A., (Treasurer), to continue the great work done to make the ABPsi New Jersey Chapter a valuable resource for all our members.

Moving forward, our mission will be to grow our organization and increase our profile as a professional organization that is culturally sensitive to the needs of our members and the greater community in the state of New Jersey. The new board has already held our strategic planning meeting for the New Year and will continue building on the previous administration's goals. Our initiatives for the coming year will be focused on membership growth, mentoring and encouraging involvement of up-and-coming students entering our profession, cultivating relationships with other culturally oriented psychology & counseling associations in New Jersey, advertising in various professional venues and increasing our increase our visibility in on social media sites, enhancing intra-chapter peer-to-peer relationships and enhancing our relations with the ABPsi national organization .

To our current members, allow me to encourage your participation. Our target for the coming year is to increase the number of chapter members. To this end, we plan to have seminars and presentations from our own chapter members. We also intend to pursue obtaining continuing education credit for attendance at our seminars.

Today's colleges hold the life sciences professionals of tomorrow. NJABPsi will continue to be heavily focused on reaching out to those students in psychology & counseling graduate studies programs throughout the state. Our goal is to promote and support the next generation of practitioner psychologists & counselors, thereby enhancing the future of professional practice for men and women of color. This can be accomplished by increasing chapter visibility and develop services and activities to benefit today's students and help them prepare for entry into the profession. Our goal is to play a major role in facilitating a smooth transition between graduate school and professional practice.

These are all very worthy goals for which we need your help to accomplish, so I urge all members to spread the word about the many benefits that NJABPsi offers and help us achieve membership growth for our chapter.

To meet these goals and continue our progress we will need the help of active members and active board members. I am asking you today to consider stepping up your support by becoming a more active member. This can be accomplished by getting involved at any level; attending events, volunteering to help with specific activities or joining one of our committees. Most of you have many years of experience with successful practices. Now is the time to mentor our younger members, to volunteer to serve on the board, to use your knowledge in administrative areas to help our programs and seminars. Please join me in advancing our chapter. The best way to serve and protect the profession is with active members, like you.

The professional knowledge I have gained and the friends I have met along the way have made my ABPsi membership a tremendous experience for me, both personally and professionally. So again, I urge you to get involved and bring along anyone else you know, new to the profession or seasoned veteran, and see what the New Jersey Chapter can do for you - I'm sure that you will be glad you did!

Together we can continue to make the ABPsi New Jersey Chapter a great resource for all our Members. Again, I thank you for the opportunity to lead the way.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH A. CONNELL SR, Ph.D., J.D.
President, NJABPsi