

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2015-2016

39th Annual Conference
Bonita Springs, FL
September 10-14, 2016



August 3, 2016

Dear ACCTA Colleagues,

Welcome to the 39th Annual ACCTA Conference in beautiful Bonita Springs on the Estero Bay! We are thrilled that you have decided to join us! This year's theme, *Self Care as an Ethical Practice*, gives us the opportunity to reflect on our complex occupations with simultaneous roles as clinicians, trainers, administrators and colleagues. We may also consider how to support our trainees and peers in the context of evolving expectations of counseling center professionals, and wonder together how to support ourselves and each other in our unique positions. I hope that this report illuminates the many activities over the past year that align with that theme, as well as our organizational goals. This report is divided into the following five sections:

Conference Highlights

2015-2016 Goals – Internal Business

2015-2016 Goals – External Business

ACCTA Committee and Activity Highlights

Conclusion

In my second and last year as President, it has never been clearer to me that ACCTA members are the most dedicated and active of any volunteer professional association in the country. I invite you to review the highlights and organizational goals in this document, and go to [Conference Reports](#) for the full reports. First and foremost, I would like express my deep gratitude and appreciation for members who have gone above and beyond in their role with ACCTA over the past year.

I would like to especially thank our extremely dedicated Officers. Dr. **Natasha Maynard-Pemba**, President-Elect, has immersed herself in all things ACCTA over the past year, and I am thrilled for our organization that she will take the helm at close of this conference. Natasha has brought clear and thoughtful perspectives to the Board throughout the year, and represented us exceptionally as a liaison. It is evident that with her leadership, the organization's future has never been brighter.

Dr. **Ellie Hakim**, Secretary, has continued her exceptional work in her second term. She has effectively lead projects such as liaison templates and position descriptions for all roles and tasks that are now institutionalized, and it cannot be overstated as to how meaningful this is to the long-standing organizational health of ACCTA. As a result, we have continuity in regard to all ACCTA activities as we experience substantial organizational growth and more rapid turn-over of membership. Ellie continues to be a voice within ACCTA leadership that synthesizes very complex discussions in a manner that allows for thoughtful and helpful decisions to be made.

Dr. **Terri Rhodes**, Treasurer, has further supported ACCTA in refining the ways that revenues and expenditures are managed to save members time and money. She has continued the ACCTA tradition of exceptional financial management of the organization, and as a result, we are stronger than we have ever been. Dr. Rhodes, in her role as long-standing Conference liaison, has also been crucial to supporting the planning and executing of our wonderful conferences. Drs. Hakim and Rhodes have written a Secretary's (includes full committee and project reports) and Treasurer's Reports respectively, which can be found at [Officers' Reports](#).

Our current board has been remarkably energetic, effective and collaborative this year. **Drs. Cyndy Boyd, Anita-Yvonne Bryant, Brigid Cahill, Christina Carroll-Pavia, Carmen Cruz, Frances Diaz, Karen Lese-Fowler, Tim Paquette, Diane Sobel, and Sterling Watson** have contributed to ACCTA more than can be described, on a range of internal and external issues relevant to ACCTA. Many served as liaisons to other organizations and represented us exceptionally well, and each made time during busy days to offer suggestions and ideas on countless subjects. Their excellent work is outlined in detail in the [2015-2016 Board of Directors, Committee and Activity Reports](#) found on the ACCTA web page. Numerous other members of ACCTA have also contributed significantly to the work of the organization through our Standing Committees, additional liaison relationships, and by volunteering for specific tasks. I know that our organization thrives, and our voice is clearly heard because of how active our organization's members are.

Speaking of which,...ACCTA connects with many other training councils and organizations essential to Counseling Center Psychology. Below are all the meetings we attended and who represented us. I want to give special thanks to our liaisons, who dedicated their time to represent ACCTA so well. I especially want to express my and ACCTA's gratitude to **Dr. Mary Ann Covey**, who as continuing liaison to CCPTP and APA, has ensured that our relationships with key partners has evolved, and helped ACCTA to further bring our voice to the national stage. Her departure from ACCTA will be deeply felt by so many of us individually, as well as the organization as a whole.

The complete list of liaisons for the 2015-2016 ACCTA year is below, and you are welcome to review the [Liaison Reports](#) available on our website.

- Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) – **Dr. Bong Joo Huang**, Tempe, October 7-11, 2015.
- Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors (AUCCCD) – **Dr. Natasha Maynard-Pemba**, Salt Lake City: October 17-21, 2015.
- Council of Chairs of Training Councils (Fall) – **Dr. Matt Zimmerman**, Washington, DC: Oct 17, 2015
- ELC Conference – **Dr. Matt Zimmerman**, Washington, DC: October 17-20, 2015.
- Board of Educational Affairs – **Dr. Matt Zimmerman**, Washington, DC: October 30-31, 2015.
- National Council of Schools and Programs of Professional Psychology (NCSPP) – **Dr. Matt Zimmerman**, Atlanta, GA: January 20-22, 2016.
- Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs (CCPTP) – **Dr. Mary Ann Covey**, Ashville, NC: February 11-14, 2016.
- Association of Psychology Training Clinics (APTC) – **Dr. Frances Diaz**, Seattle, WA: March 3-5, 2016.
- Council of Chairs of Training Councils/Board of Educational Affairs (Spring) – **Drs. Matt Zimmerman & Natasha Maynard-Pemba**, Washington, DC: March 31-April 2, 2016
- Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) / Postdoctoral Summit – **Dr. Matt Zimmerman**, New Orleans, May 26-29, 2016.
- Board of Educational Affairs (BEA): **Dr. Matt Zimmerman**
- Division 17: Counseling Psychology: **Dr. Mary Ann Covey**
- Association for the Coordination of Counseling Center Clinical Services (ACCCCS)– **Dr. MaryJan Murphy**, Orlando, FL: May 17-20, 2016.
- Association for University and College Counseling Center Outreach (AUCCCO) – **Dr. Karen Taylor**, Columbus, OH, June 8-10, 2016.
- American Psychological Association (APA) Convention – **Dr. Mary Ann Covey**, Denver, CO, August 4-7, 2016.
 - Division 17/SCP Board & Business Meetings
 - Counseling Psychology Specialty Council/Synarchy Meeting
 - Commission on Accreditation
 - Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs (CCPTP) Business Meeting
 - APAGS TD meet and greet
- American Psychological Association (APA), APPIC Membership Meeting and liaison lunch – **Dr. Claytie Davis, III**, Denver, CO, August 4-7, 2016.
- National Register of Health Service Psychologists – (Monitoring Liaison) - **Dr. Matt Zimmerman**

I would like to thank AMC Source's **Debbie Nolan, Greg Brooks** and **Rasheeda Walkes-Wallerson**, who have been incredible supports to ACCTA for our website, membership listserv and conferences. We simply could not function as well as we do without their input, guidance and support.

I also want to thank our conference hosts for this year, **Drs. Laura Wright, Amber Lyda, Kristen Davis-John, Alia Fons-Scheyd, Jocelyn Buhain, and Susan Recinella**, with assistance from our President-Elect, **Dr. Natasha Maynard-Pemba**, who is also part of our Florida contingent. Our hosts are working behind the scenes to help membership enjoy the uniqueness of Bonita Springs, and the surrounding Estero Bay area. They have also facilitated conference logistics and contributed to an enjoyable and meaningful conference experience. They are responsible for registration, excursions, and posting much of the useful information on the conference webpages. I also want to point out that the hosts work closely with **Dr. Terri Rhodes**, whose institutional knowledge of conference planning is unparalleled and simply irreplaceable. Dr. Rhodes also works closely with Debbie Nolan, the ACCTA Board, and many to enable a smoothly run conference.

Conference Highlights

This year's theme, *Self-Care as an Ethical Practice*, was developed as a result discussions regarding the increasingly challenging roles of Training Directors within Counseling Centers, the multiple expectations of Training Directors, and the difficulties of committing to a self-care value in the context of such challenges. Self-care, as a value to which we aspire for ourselves, and hope to inspire in our trainees and colleagues, is now more challenging than ever within the overall Student Affairs landscape. As psychologists, we are well aware of the need for self-care as essential to sustainable careers and effective practice. It is my hope that as we talk with each other about our efforts toward health sustaining self-assessment, ways to engage in self-care amidst a challenging climate, and how to model self-care for trainees and colleagues, that we will all come away feeling empowered and positive going forward in our roles.

There are several areas to highlight in regard to this year's conference theme that represent us "putting our money where our mouths are (literally and figuratively). First, we are thrilled to have **Dr. Melba Vasquez**, Past-President of APA and prolific writer and speaker in the area of self-care, give our Keynote Address entitled, "*The Ethic of Self-Care: Enhancing Personal and Professional Lives.*" In addition, the program allows for connection through continued large and small group culture sharing and two affinity group times. We have also planned for several self-care opportunities for attendees, including a dedicated self-care room with a variety of options, two fabulous excursion choices, a multitude of outdoor resort activities, and a Ferry to the resort's private beach island. There will be many opportunities to commune with nature (Florida style), through access to the resort boardwalk, the Sunset Eco-Tour as an excursion option, optional dolphin tours, and sunset over the bay each and every night of the conference.

This year's conference will have five unopposed CE programs that include the Keynote Address, Diversity Scholars presentations, Passages, SCD sponsored program, and an APA sponsored SoA Compliance program. The SCD program is entitled "*What Happens When the Political Becomes Personal? Social Justice and Training Issues.*" There will also be three concurrent CE meeting times and the Innovations Showcase, with exceptional programs from our fellow ACCTA members.

We are also excited to once again have representatives from the Commission on Accreditation to offer our members the training on the APA Self-Study on Wednesday after close of our Conference. You can obtain direct information about those workshops at [Accreditation Site Visitor & Self-Study Workshops](#). You are welcome to go to [2016 Conference](#) for full information about the schedule, CE programs, activities, keynote, reports and more.

2015-2016 Goals – Internal Business

In response to input from the membership as well as Board discussion, the ACCTA Board identified a number of internal goals for the 2015-16 year that are listed below:

1. Continue to organize all projects and positions into a guide that is more easily transferable across years

ACCTA is an organization that is growing and changing more rapidly than ever. Historically, information about projects and positions has been communicated through Bylaws and P&P in some circumstances (Officer roles, Standing Committees, Elections etc.), and more verbally in many other circumstances (Projects, Tasks, Board functions etc.). Because of the increased pace of change in ACCTA, it has become important to organizational health to have a bank of information for all positions, roles and projects, to assure continuity of the many important functions in which we engage.

Position Descriptions have now been completed for nearly all roles, tasks and positions, and each includes a general overview, the associated responsibilities, timeline, suggestions/tips for the role/project, and needed resources. At the beginning of the 2015-2016 ACCTA year, the Position Descriptions served as a basis to orient on-coming Board members, and serve a continuity function as well as support the apprenticeship model that has worked well over the years. **Dr. Ellie Hakim** as Secretary, continues to bank those Position Descriptions and they can be made available for any member to review.

2. Provide robust accreditation support to members not yet accredited through our Accreditation Workgroup, and informational support regarding the SoA and related documents

Members continue to receive support regarding accreditation in several ways. ACCTA leadership continued to provide clear and specific feedback as requested regarding the SoA competencies, the Accreditation Operating Procedures (AOP), and the Implementing Regulations (IR's) that have been developed thus far. ACCTA further continued support of members interested in self-study mentoring by pairing with members more experienced with the processes. The Standing Committee on Training Resources updated accreditation related materials on the website, including recent self-studies and site visit communications. We will continue to update such materials as members complete self-studies and site visits based on the Standards of Accreditation. At this year's conference, we will have an unopposed program on SoA Compliance, sponsored by the CoA, in anticipation of required compliance by January of 2017. According to Cynthia Belar, past Executive Director of the Board of Educational Affairs and Interim CEO of APA, ACCTA remains the training council with the highest percentage of APA accredited internship sites, and Annual Survey data gathered by our Standing Committee on Research lead by **Dr. Mollie Herman**, indicates that several members are moving toward initial accreditation in the next few years.

3. Further support for the Diversity initiatives within the organization.

ACCTA brings a fundamental commitment to the appreciation and support for diversity, as well as a strongly held value of an inclusive and multicultural community for our organization and our trainees. Congruent to those values, leadership has strengthened our support for diversity initiatives by adding, in collaboration with SCD leadership, a second Board liaison to the Standing Committee on Diversity (SCD) and a Board liaison specifically to collaborate with the Chairs of the Diversity Scholars Mentorship Program. We have also created conference space for an on-going unopposed SCD program, additional time for large and small culture sharing meetings, and a second affinity group time. Program chairs continue to request programs with diversity and multicultural foci. The Board also began a conversation that is planned to continue, to discuss how ACCTA's commitment to diversity might continue to be strengthened or contemporized in the future.

4. Design, Plan and Implement the 2016 Conference: *Self Care as an Ethical Practice*

I am excited that we are offering our 39th Annual ACCTA Conference for our members in Bonita Springs, Florida on Estero Bay. Feedback from last year's conference survey was wonderfully helpful and very positive, and as a result we are making modest adjustments to the program and schedule (see above in Conference Highlights). The Board remains strongly committed to focusing on inclusiveness and ways to maintain connectedness at

the conference. We will again have our First Time Attendee meeting in round-table format with Board members participating. We are also continuing with meetings that were tried for the first time last year with good feedback, including a second Affinity Group, having both large and small groups for Culture Sharing, and an unopposed SCD sponsored program.

2015-2016 Goals – External Business

1. Continue to attend to Internship Match issues through the Council of Chairs of Training Councils / APA Board of Educational Affairs (BEA)

The Match continues to be an area of primary focus for training councils, and the community of psychologists, despite a substantially improved match rate during this past cycle. It remains unclear as to whether that improvement will be sustained. Discussions also continue regarding the need for a solid national workforce analysis, and the training community is enthusiastic about APA's Center for Workforce Studies coming under the auspices of the Board of Educational Affairs in the past year. The APA BEA remains focused on developing sustainable internship sites, as does APPIC through their grant program.

CCTC's Internship Matrix workgroup has completed their project of pooling resources for those interested in learning more about developing doctoral internships in psychology, and member programs will begin to put links to the [Internship Matrix](#) on their website. The Matrix includes detailed information about counseling center internships and ACCTA as a primary resource for those interested in internship development. The Matrix also includes the Internship Toolkit, a CCTC project in which ACCTA members were heavily involved, as well as details and web links on internship development at VA's, School Systems, Community Mental Health Systems, Hospitals and several other site types.

Additionally, the Standardized Reference Form (SRF), developed by CCTC, was fully utilized over the past internship selection cycle. Based on substantial feedback, the form is going through a revision that will be used for the 2016 applicant review cycle.

2. Continue to support members and develop plans for additional support regarding the Standards of Accreditation, revised Operating Procedures (AOP) and developing Implementing Regulations (IR's)

ACCTA continues to support members through the accreditation mentorship program and resources regarding the revised Standards of Accreditation. Since compliance will be required by all accredited doctoral, internship and post-doctoral programs by January of 2017, ACCTA is offering additional support through an unopposed conference program

on SoA compliance, and getting ready to post training resources once such documents are deemed as benchmarks in the revised system.

ACCTA leadership remains heavily involved in providing feedback through each step of the request process. Much of that feedback has been accepted, and communication between CoA and ACCTA remains excellent and helpful to our membership and consequently our trainees.

3. Attend to legislative efforts to apply the “Conscience Clause” to training in psychology, and support members in [Preparing Professional Psychologists to Serve a Diverse Public](#).

ACCTA continues to attend carefully to “Conscience Clause” efforts that will diminish our profession’s ability to serve a diverse public. We continue to support members in preparing materials and engaging in processes that are protective of our trainees and the diverse public that we serve. Those efforts include on-going dialogue within ACCTA, and consultation with specialists on the forefront of this issue. Legislative efforts regarding the “Conscience Clause” are likely to continue, so continued education and support from ACCTA will continue as well.

4. Attend to FSLA that could impact doctoral internships in psychology.

Over the course of the past year, ACCTA was invested and part of the training community’s dialogue regarding the possibly implications of FSLA regulation changes for those engaged in “administrative, professional, computer & outside sales...” work. It is clear that interns are classified differently at different institutions, and guidance from human resources and/or student affairs administrators dealing with this issue for multiple classifications has been helpful. ACCTA will continue, along with the training community and APA’s Government Relations Office, to track the issue and be a part of the on-going dialogue about best practices and solutions to challenges that arise as a result of the updated regulation.

ACCTA Committee and Activity Highlights

The following areas, as well as many other important activities are described in more detail in the full reports, available at [Conference Reports](#).

Standing Committee on Diversity

The Standing Committee on Diversity (SCD) has played a significant role in the life of the organization since its inception in the early 1990s. The SCD has been responsible for promoting cultural diversity, multiculturalism, social justice, and advocacy issues within ACCTA and is involved in several initiatives and activities during the year, including the Diversity Mentor Scholars Program, sponsoring a CE program during Conference, Culture Sharing, Affinity Groups, and the nomination of an SCD Slate for Board elections. The SCD established a Steering Committee at the 2011 Conference and has successfully redefined its mission, focus, and structure. **Dr. Bong Joo Hwang** is the current Chair of the SCD Steering Committee and is in the unusual position of “flying solo” after **Dr. Natacha Foo Kune**, prior Co-Chair along with Dr. Hwang accepted the Director position at U. Washington’s Counseling Center. Dr. Kune was highly effective in the Co-Chair role, and Dr. Hwang has done an exceptional job with the multitude of vital and complex tasks of the SCD. Along with Dr. Hwang, **Drs. Eri Bentley, Maribel Diaz, Kym Jordan-Simmons, Durriya Meer, Debra Crisp** and **Pam Epps** have done stellar work throughout the year in regard to ensure that diversity, inclusivity and social justice remain at the core of our organization. This includes supporting members, engaging in programming, and advising the Board on a range of issues including conference site selection and all conference programming. Fuller information about the SCD’s many activities is available at [2015-2016 Board of Directors, Committee and Activity Reports](#). It is with a heavy heart that we experience the loss of SCD and ACCTA leaders, **Dr. Pam Epps** by way of her retirement from Emory (and we wish her well in her new journey), and **Dr. Debra Crisp**, who leaves us due to discontinuation of her program.

SCD Board Liaisons **Drs. Frances Diaz and Carmen Cruz** have played key roles in facilitating communication between the Board and SCD Steering Committee and consequently supporting essential SCD initiatives. The Steering Committee discussed a number of issues via e-mail listserv and conference calls throughout the year, including potential Conference sites for 2017 and 2018, the unopposed SCD sponsored CE program at this year’s Conference, and the structure of Culture Sharing based on member feedback. Drs. Diaz and Cruz have greatly supported ease of communication between the Board and SCD, allowing for the values that SCD brings to ACCTA to be fully expressed throughout the organization.

Diversity Mentorship Scholarship Program

Drs. Pei-Yi Lin and **Mari Diaz**, as Co-Chairs of this committee successfully coordinated the application and review process for a very strong and talented group of scholarship candidates. We look forward to welcoming **Drs. Marshall Bewley** of Texas Woman's University and **Carlton Green** of University of Maryland, College Park to the conference and learning from their presentations.

Membership

Dr. Frances Diaz reported that ACCTA currently has 177 members. ACCTA welcomes nine new member programs for the 2015-16 year. There were also 24 changes in leadership for member programs. Members are encouraged to continue thinking about colleges and university counseling centers that are from their geographic area and invite them to join our amazing organization. ACCTA's continued growth helps support new programs in internship development.

Continuing Education Committee

This year's Co-Chairs, **Drs. Karen Lese-Fowler** and **Diane Sobel** applied for and received approval for ACCTA to continue as a CE provider through the APA Office of CE Sponsor Approval (APA CESOAS). This process is highly detail oriented and time-consuming, and Drs. Lese-Fowler and Sobel did an exceptional job, allowing our conference to remain a central place for our members to acquire needed and helpful continuing education credits.

Following last year's project lead by **Drs. MaryJan Murphy** and **Karen Lese-Fowler** of changing the program sign-in and tracking process to an electronic format lead, member feedback from the annual survey was markedly positive. As a result, the same process will be followed and managed by this year's Co-Chairs for the 2016 Conference.

Standing Committee on Research

The SCR, chaired by **Dr. Mollie Herman**, has had another very productive year! The committee developed, conducted, summarized, and shared results from the 2015 ACCTA conference evaluation and developed and conducted the 2016 ACCTA survey, which will be presented at this year's Conference.

Standing Committee on Bylaws

Dr. Karen Lese-Fowler has kept ACCTA steady this year as SCB Chair, by providing on-going consultation about Bylaws and ACCTA Policies & Procedures, as well as discussions about possible needed changes. The Standing Committee on Bylaws continues to assist ACCTA Officers and Board Members as needed. No substantive changes are anticipated during this year.

Standing Committee on Training Resources

The SCTR has been highly active for the benefit of ACCTA membership over the past year, under the Chair-ship of **Dr. Jod Taywaditep**. New training materials have been reviewed and **Dr. Kim Hays** has lead a needs assessment of training resources along with several SCTR members. As noted in the SCTR section of the Activity Reports, results of the needs assessment will be discussed and shared at the SCTR breakfast meeting during this conference.

Standing Committee on Website Management

Drs. Tim Paquette and Carmen Cruz have continued to manage the reorganized website with on-going content updates and resources. It was agreed that another review of content is warranted in the continued process of remaining current and useful to members. This process will commence as the new ACCTA year begins in early October.

Conference Planning Activities

Dr. Terri Rhodes was highly active in coordinating with many ACCTA members and AMC Source in ensuring a wonderful conference this year. Feel free to review details of those activities at [Conference Reports](#), and consider helping out for future conference. It is a wonderful way to “dip your toe” into the ACCTA waters and get more involved.

ACCTA Mentor Program

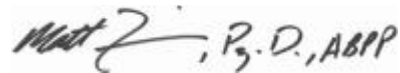
Drs. Tim Paquette and A-Y Bryant continue to facilitate an active and successful mentor program that pairs mentors with newer members or those seeking support in particular areas (curriculum development, accreditation). ACCTA is particularly focused on supporting members with initial re-accreditations and compliance with the new Standards of Accreditation, and members are encouraged to seek mentoring as needed.

Conclusion

ACCTA continues to be highly active in areas within and outside of the organization. We truly are an organization that is effective for each other, and as advocates within the field. I am so appreciative to the many members who have served on ACCTA committees or worked on projects, to those who have engaged other organizations as liaisons, and to those who have shared their opinions and views for the betterment of our trainees, colleagues and organization. We remain an inclusive, effective and welcoming group. Our voice has never been stronger regarding issues of national importance in training and education in psychology, due to our history of exceptional leadership and high level of member activity.

I want to close my final President's Report by sharing what an honor it has been to have the organization's support and trust. The experience of leading ACCTA has undoubtedly been the highlight of my career, and I have grown more than I could have imagined. It has been a pleasure to work with our extraordinarily active and thoughtful Boards. We truly are an organization that that is vital to each other, our field, and the trainees that we serve.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Zimmerman, Psy.D., ABPP". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Matt Zimmerman, Psy.D., ABPP
ACCTA President