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Responses to the American Board of Professional Psychology Questions

1. What are your views regarding board certification in psychology?

Answer: I believe that the process of becoming board certified can be an intellectually stimulating experience. It is an opportunity to review relevant literature including science and practice. Applicants must generate how they conceptualize and address issues that may arise in the provision of psychological care.

Other health disciplines use board certification as well (i.e. a way to indicate a higher level of skills, knowledge, and peer review) and many routinely expect such certification. If we are to achieve full recognition and collaborate successfully across disciplines, it would help to have some comparable indices of competency.

Because education and training are part of the socialization into the discipline, I believe that some components of the board certification process should be incorporated into both graduate school and the internship program. The examination should be a clear extension of education and training of practicing psychologists. We should encourage our trainees to seek this credential.

2. What are your views regarding specialization within psychology?

Answer: Given that my career is in a pediatric hospital, I am keenly aware of the importance of specialty board certification. Such credentials insure the strength of our training program by documenting the current skills and knowledge of supervisors in the various specialty and sub-specialty rotations. Achieving certification demonstrates familiarity with the terminology, treatment plans and cultures of medical services. Other professions expect board certification and psychologists must demonstrate similar knowledge and skills to gain acceptance and credibility as effective leaders and collaborators with other disciplines.

Psychology is a dynamic discipline (i.e. our science and practice are constantly evolving). Board certification and demonstrating continuing competence with a life-long learning focus is absolutely necessary.

My position is that *psychology is every day in almost every way*. Almost every aspect of the human experience is under scrutiny by a psychologist. Those that do not stay current will soon be left behind. To keep our discipline vibrant and attractive to the next generation, we must remain open to updating our skills and pursuing new areas of research and practice.

3. If elected, how can APA and ABPP work together toward improving our field?

Answer: My campaign emphasis is on *leadership and collaboration as citizen psychologists*. Psychologists need to collaborate within the field and with other disciplines as well. I commit to working with ABPP to identify ways that specialist psychologists can function more effectively as citizen psychologists both within the discipline and at the local, state, national and international levels.

The reality is that our profession must be seen and heard in places where policies are formulated and implemented. We need to be in the room, at the table and yes at the head of the table when decisions are made. Psychology has the potential to be an even more powerful discipline. If elected, I am committed to moving APA into the power lane of organizations in this country. As I have stated many times, some disciplines automatically get a seat at the policy tables. We need to work at this. My hope is that at some time soon, when policies are being formulated and implemented, someone will ask—But where is the psychologist? What can psychology tell us about the implications of such policies? What can psychological science and practice contribute?

4. If elected, how can ABPP help with your presidential agenda?

Answer: ABPP can help with the agenda by encouraging those who hold ABPP certification to nominate themselves and others to serve on panels that will address the presidential agenda. If elected, I will need the

assistance of many others who share my view that psychology is every day in almost every way and consequently we need to engage in leadership and collaboration as citizen psychologists at the local, state, national and international levels. This will be a beginning. Hopefully a change in the culture of psychology will occur in such a way that graduate students to senior psychologists will see themselves representing a discipline that is relevant across the spectrum of the human existence i.e. a source of knowledge that can enhance the human experience.