

To: Division 44: The Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues

From: Jessica Henderson Daniel, PhD, ABPP

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Re: Request for Endorsement for APA President-Elect

Date: June 15, 2014

1. Why I am seeking endorsement of Division 44? First, I am a member of Division 44 and am seeking endorsements from the divisions that I have chosen to join. It would be an honor to be supported by my “home” divisions. Second, I joined Division 44 because I have been a LGBT ally for many years. Third, as a woman of color (two potential target identities) I can identify in part with the discrimination that the LGBT communities have endured and continue to endure. Injustice anywhere is a threat to all of us. I have a track record as one who is committed to supporting attention to social justice issues across groups.
2. Evidence of a record of commitment to advancing lesbian gay, bisexual and/or transgender issues in education and training:

I hold three education/training roles: Director of Training In Psychology in the Department of Psychology and Associate Director of the LEAH (Leadership Education in Adolescent Health) Training Program in the Division of Adolescent Medicine, both at Boston Children’s Hospital; and Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychology in the Clinical Psychology Program at Boston University

My journey into the LGBT world began in the 1980’s at BU where I teach the course, Psychology and Social Oppression. Within two years of my initial semester as adjunct faculty, students began to come out as LGB in

the class. Despite the fact that race was to be the focus of the class, I decided to include LGB topics as well. When I asked why they chose to come out in my class, they responded that it felt safe. This additional topic meant that I needed to learn about LGB issues so that I could teach on the related topics. At one point, I invited the LGB students to present their stories to the class—which was a very powerful experience for both the presenters and the audience. It also was an example of “The Danger of a Single Story” because there were a range of “coming out” and “living as a LGB person” stories.

Then I decided to add LGB topics to the clinical seminar at Children’s Hospital. I have served as a member of the training leadership group at Judge Baker Children’s Center/ Children’s Hospital since the 1980’s. Currently, I am the Director of Training in Psychology at Boston Children’s Hospital. For the past 20 years, I have included gay, lesbian and bisexual issues in the clinical seminar curriculum. This has not been without some negative reactions from the interns. I have also included developmental and religious issues in the lives of gays and lesbians in a department-wide multicultural seminar for training faculty and trainees in psychology, psychiatry and social work. It was after that seminar series that I sought support from the psychology division leadership to inform psychology intern applicants at the interview stage that training at this site includes focus on a range of diversity issues, including LGB issues. If the applicants do not wish to receive such education and training, they are encouraged to rank our program accordingly.

I have also included LGB training a seminar which is taught as a part of the LEAH program.

Finally, in the 1990’s I was invited to work with under-resourced transgender women of color. Initially, I declined the offer, stating that I lacked both knowledge and experience with this group. But the program director persisted, telling me that I was the ideal person because I was

willing to learn. I worked with the women for two years. At the end of the program, I conducted a needs assessment survey which provided documentation for a proposed intervention program for the women. Unfortunately, the program was not funded. However, the data are an integral part of the now LGBT component in my BU class, the psychology internship seminar and the mental health seminar in the LEAH program.

3. Statement of commitment to include LGBT issues in psychology during presidential term. If elected, my term would be in 2016, when the reorganization of APA will still be in progress. I cannot predict what issues will need attention during the restructuring of APA governance. What I can commit to is a continuation of my leadership history of inclusion and respect for marginalized groups. Wherever I have served e.g. at the state level and in a range of APA governance positions, I have consistently and effectively maintained this stance. I will work to collaborate with others so that I am not necessarily alone when issues arise. But I am capable of standing alone should the issue warrant such a position. My commitment to LGBT issues will remain intact.