

PPAGS



February 2017

Apply for a \$2000 Student Education Award!

Applications for Student Education Awards are due on March 15, 2017. The Pennsylvania Psychological Foundation (PPF) has established monetary awards (\$2,000 each) to be given to graduate students in psychology. The purpose of these awards is to help defray some of the many expenses incurred during graduate study that may not be covered by other stipends and scholarships. Recipients are selected based on financial need, academic performance, potential for service to the field of psychology, and community service involvement. Visit this link with instructions on how to apply: <https://papsy.site-ym.com/?page=PPFEdAward>

Join us for Advocacy Day on May 8, 2017!



By Jessica Dougan, M.A.
4th Year Doctoral Student
at Marywood University

As graduate students, we have a lot on our plates: coursework, clinical work, research, and everything in between. Despite the hustle and bustle of being a graduate student, it is important that we take one day out of the year to attend Advocacy Day sponsored by PPA and held at the state capitol in Harrisburg, PA. We are the future psychologists of

Pennsylvania and no one is going to advocate for our profession except us. I personally have found PPA Advocacy Day to be a great learning experience and, each year I attend, I feel like I am truly making a difference for my future as a psychologist. For example, did you know that a bill was passed recently concerning internship and postdoc training hours? This was possible in part due to students attending Advocacy Day and discussing the importance of this bill with our legislators. There are also bills that will affect us when we begin to practice, such as continuing education credits and even insurance reimbursements. Later on, do you want to be adequately compensated for your services? If so, the best time to advocate for our field begins now! I hope you make the choice to participate in Advocacy Day this year because we are the only ones who can change our future for the better!

Advocacy Day is May 8th, 2017 at the state capitol in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. A typical day includes programming, meeting with senators and representatives in small groups, and attending a press conference. Registration is FREE for students! If you have any questions about advocacy or this event please contact Jessica Dougan at jmdougan@m.marywood.edu.

I look forward to seeing you at Advocacy Day!

PPA Membership - A Pathway to Meaningful Connection and Community



by Camille St. James, M.S.
4th Year Doctoral Student at Chestnut Hill
College

When I started my graduate work in psychology I did not have a specific idea about what I would do with my degree but I knew that this was the path that would allow me to fulfill my commitment to leave the world better than I found it. What I have come to realize is that I will be successful in this endeavor only with the help and support of a caring and talented community.

What I did not know is where I would find that community. While I am clearly capable of espousing lofty aspirations, I am also rather practical. As an older student I have the benefit of many years of life and professional experience. One of the most valuable lessons I learned during my corporate career is the value of a robust network. I got involved in the PPA to develop professional connections. What I received in return is connection to the community I was seeking.

My involvement with the PPA started because the people I most admire in the PsyD Department at Chestnut Hill College - both students and faculty - are active members and they touted the merits of membership. My first direct experience with the PPA was Advocacy Day 2015. The experience was so positive I did it again in 2016. I was involved in government affairs and advocacy work in my corporate career and understand the importance of active engagement with legislators. Advocacy Day gives me the opportunity to blend my previous experience with my passion for helping others which lies at the core of my work as a therapist and as a doctoral student. The PPA staff and key members who help organize Advocacy Day are amazing. They provide expert support and the quality resources needed to effectively advocate for the profession of psychology and the people it serves. But more importantly they make themselves available and engender connection to create an inspired community of advocates. Because of the people as much as for the cause, Advocacy Day is a staple commitment on my calendar.

The PPA has also given me both connection and community through the Emerging Leaders Program. I am honored to be part of this remarkable group of talented early career psychologists and fellow students. While the training and projects associated with this program are stimulating and challenging, it is the interaction with my fellow Emerging Leaders, our remarkable mentors, the whole Emerging Leaders team, and members of the PPA Board of Directors that inspires me to continue to deepen my involvement in this robust organization.

Other valuable services such as the annual Internship Fair and the listserv give me access to knowledgeable people and a wealth of information, and they effectively expand my

professional community across the Commonwealth. The common thread through all of these benefits are the people, the connections, and the community that is the PPA. I can not speak highly enough of the programs and services provided by the PPA, yet it is the passion and dedication of the membership and leadership that make the PPA more than just a resource - the PPA is the caring and talented community I was seeking.

Pennsylvania Psychological Association

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