Dear Southwestern Regional Psi Chi members,

Welcome to the 2019–20 academic year! Psi Chi is in full A–Z celebration of its 90th anniversary this year. As we celebrate 90 years, I hope that you will take some time as a chapter to reflect on how Psi Chi benefits your students and psychology. An active, engaged chapter provides opportunities for excellence to both members and nonmembers at the host institution. I hope you will have opportunities to recognize and celebrate the benefits of Psi Chi throughout the year. Help honor Psi Chi’s 90th anniversary year by taking part in our Fall 2019/Spring 2020 #PsychEverywhere Membership Drive. Our hope is for all eligible members to join Psi Chi.

As you work on your plans for this academic year, I have some updates that you may find useful.

Upcoming Conventions: Being a member of the psychological community is an important part of a Psi Chi member’s responsibility. Professional conventions provide opportunities to engage with cutting-edge research, meet others, and develop professional networks. To help you enjoy the many benefits of attending a convention, here are some events in the Southwestern region this year:

- The annual meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association (SWPA) will be Friday, April 3, to Sunday, April 5, 2020 in Frisco, TX. The deadline for submitting your proposals for the convention is Friday, November 8. Projects in progress will be considered for the SWPA and Psi Chi program, but only completed projects will be eligible for Regional Research Awards.
- The Winter Poster Session of the Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students will be Saturday, December 7, 2019, on the campus of the University of Central Arkansas.
- The spring meeting of the Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2020, on the campus of the University of Central Arkansas.
- Do you know of other opportunities to present research available in the Southwestern region? If so, please send the details to southwesternvp@psichi.org, and we will get them added to this list.

Getting Involved: The degree to which you experience the benefits of Psi Chi membership is directly tied to your level of engagement. The more engaged you are with the Society, the greater the benefits of membership. Being a member of
Psi Chi opens many doors. Which ones will you walk through this year? Here are some options:

- **The Southwestern Region Steering Committee is looking for a faculty member and one student member to serve on the committee.** The steering committee helps plan the Psi Chi regional convention, evaluates abstracts and regional research awards for the convention, and helps with other initiatives.
- **Do you or your chapter have an idea for an event at SWPA this year?** (e.g., panel discussions, workshops, special speakers)? Planning for the convention is currently underway, and there is room in the program for your chapter to be involved.

If either of these opportunities is of interest to you, please reach out to me at southwesternvp@psichi.org.

- Psi Chi continues to welcome involvement in a number of collaborative research projects. This is a great way to gain valuable research experience and build your resumé. [Find out more about these projects.](#)
- Applications for Psi Chi grants and awards are accepted approximately 30 days prior to the deadline. These programs are an excellent opportunity to practice grant writing and to potentially support your research or schooling. [More about these opportunities.](#)
- Psi Chi offers two publications to learn about psychology and to publish your findings: [Eye on Psi Chi](#) magazine and [Psi Chi Journal of Psychological Research](#). [Learn all about Psi Chi’s publications.](#)

If you are planning to submit a paper or poster to the SWPA 2020 program, there are a few details to be aware of:

- All abstracts submitted with a first author that is a Psi Chi member will be reviewed by the Psi Chi Southwestern Region Steering Committee for a Regional Research Award.
- The top-scoring abstracts for *completed projects* will be accepted into the program as Psi Chi Regional Research Award presentations. All award presentations are assigned as paper presentations.
- Abstracts by Psi Chi members submitted to the SWPA competition that are not selected for a Regional Research Award will then be considered by the SWPA program committee.
- All abstracts must be 500 words or less, regardless of the program or competition. Abstracts must include a discussion of the results of the project (including relevant statistical analyses).
- For consideration in the Psi Chi program, the abstract must describe an empirical research project.
For consideration for a Regional Research Award, the abstract must describe a completed project.

Abstracts must be submitted through SWPA’s website by Friday, November 8.

For full details on the Psi Chi awards at the SWPA convention, please visit the Call for Papers section of the SWPA website.

I encourage you to consider participating in Psi Chi’s Give Back to Psi Chi fundraising campaign. This is a great chance to show your financial support to Psi Chi. Funds raised by this campaign will be used to support scholarships, the Membership Assistance Fund, and other Psi Chi initiatives. Another way for your chapter to give back to Psi Chi is the Chapter Challenge. This year the Psi Chi Chapter Challenge officially runs from November 1 to December 3 and supports ALL member programs. Find out how you can get started today at www.psichi.org/chapterchallenge. Active participation in the chapter challenge is now considered in the evaluation of Model Chapter applications.

As you make plans for this academic year, please visit the Psi Chi website often and explore the many grants, awards, and learning opportunities that are available. Additional information is also available on the Southwestern Region’s Facebook page. Membership in Psi Chi provides many benefits. Take advantage of these!

If there is anything that I can do for you, please contact me at southwesternvp@psichi.org.

Shawn R. Charlton, PhD
Southwestern Regional Vice-President
University of Central Arkansas