To: Fall Mailing Eblast to Southwestern Region  
Date: September 27, 2021  
Subject: Southwestern Regional VP Fall Letter

Dear Southwestern Regional Psi Chi members,

Welcome to the 2021–22 academic year! I am excited to begin my second year of service as your Southwest Region Vice-President. Last year was far from typical, and I recognize that the pandemic continues to present challenges that affect our Psi Chi chapters and members. I want to take this opportunity to share some updates on how Psi Chi plans to support advisors, officers, and members during the upcoming academic year. Listed below are several important updates, announcements, and resources to keep in mind for this year.

Resources for the 2021–22 Academic Year

- Psi Chi President Dr. Ngoc Bui has chosen the annual theme: [Connect With Psi Chi](#). Dr. Bui highlights how interacting with Psi Chi can help us feel connected during these challenging times. Programming will offer opportunities for Psi Chi members to interact with one another, the field of psychology, and their communities. Information on this initiative will be posted to our regional social media as it becomes available, and I hope to see you at some of the networking events that are part of this initiative.

- Although I hoped we would be back to normal operations this fall, many chapters continue to operate virtually. Psi Chi’s Central Office has created [TIPS FOR HOSTING A VIRTUAL INDUCTION CEREMONY](#). In order to help advisors and officers, a [virtual induction ceremony video](#) has been posted, which will help simplify the process. With these resources, we encourage chapters to consider both a fall and spring induction ceremony.

Upcoming Convention

- The annual meeting of the [Southwestern Psychological Association (SWPA)](#) will be Friday, April 8, to Sunday, April 10, 2022 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The deadline for [submitting your proposals](#) for the convention will be early November. Projects in progress will be considered for the SWPA and Psi Chi program, but only completed projects will be eligible for [Regional Research Awards](#).
We are excited to share this year’s Psi Chi speakers. Dr. Katie Cherry (Louisiana State University) will be Psi Chi’s Distinguished Lecturer. Her research addresses traumatic stress and recovery as well as healthy aging. She has published several books including: *Traumatic Stress and Long-Term Recovery: Coping With Disasters and Other Negative Life Events* as well as *Lifespan Perspectives on Natural Disasters: Coping With Katrina, Rita and Other Storms*. Dr. Jas Sullivan (professor of political science, psychology, and African American studies) will be Psi Chi’s Diversity Speaker. Dr. Sullivan studies the impact of race on political and psychological outcomes. His current projects focus on the following topics: African American racial identity and reactions to and coping with discrimination. I am looking forward to hearing from both speakers and getting the chance to interact with members as SWPA returns to a face-to-face format.

If you are planning to submit for Psi Chi Regional Research Awards, there are a few details to consider:

- 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.
- 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 the published deadline.
- For full details on the Psi Chi awards at the SWPA convention, please visit the [Call for Papers section](#) of the SWPA website.

**Opportunities to Get Involved**

- 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. Please reach out to me at southwesternvp@psichi.org if you have ideas for SWPA programming.
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.

We encourage your involvement in the 2021-22 Membership Drive.

I hope that chapters in our region will be able to continue to connect virtually, share resources, and 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.

Take good care!

Lisa Rosen, PhD
Southwestern Regional Vice-President
Texas Woman's University