Dear Western Psi Chi Members,

I hope you are enjoying the start of fall and the academic year. A special welcome to any new Psi Chi members receiving this newsletter for the first time!

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Brittany Avila and I am the Psi Chi Western Regional Vice-President for 2023–24. I am a psychology professor at the University of Nevada, Reno. My background is in social psychology and cognitive development, and my primary interests are burnout in college students, creativity, and academic achievement. I have been the Psi Chi Mentor at UNR for about five years and am excited to transition my role within Psi Chi to serve as your Western Regional Vice-President.

I would like to thank Dr. Louise Chim for her work serving in this role for the past two years and for her guidance in helping me prepare for this role.

Now, I’d like to share with you some upcoming Psi Chi opportunities and relevant deadlines.

Submit your research to and/or attend the Western Psychological Association (WPA) Annual Convention (April 24–28, 2024) in San Francisco, CA.

- The submission deadline for proposals is Friday, December 18, 2023. See the call for proposals for more details on the types of proposals you can submit, and please consider submitting a poster to the Psi Chi specific poster session to be eligible for research awards.
- Participate in the Psi Chi programming at WPA. The Western region steering committee is busy planning a variety of sessions including research talks, information about graduate school and careers, and a lively chapter exchange where chapters can share their successes and challenges. Please reach out to me at westernvp@psichi.org if you have any suggestions for our programming!
- Apply for a regional travel grant to help offset your travel costs to WPA (due January 22, 2024). You can apply for this travel grant even if you have not yet heard back from WPA about whether or not your presentation has been accepted.
Want to get more involved with WPA? The WPA student council is currently recruiting members for 2023–24. Consider designating a Psi Chi member from your chapter as a representative or nominating yourself. You can find more information about the WPA student council along with a link to the online application form here.

Apply for grants, awards, and scholarships.
- You can find a full list here of the many awards, grants, and scholarships that undergraduate and graduate students, chapters, and faculty can apply for. These include:
  - Undergraduate and Graduate Research Grants (Deadlines: Jan. 15, May 1)
  - Unrestricted Travel Grants (Deadlines: Dec. 5, May 5)
  - Chapter awards including the Model Chapter Award (Deadline: May 15)
  - Faculty awards and grants including Professional Development Grants for Teachers of Psychology (Deadlines: Oct. 31, Mar. 15)

Gain research experience.
- Get involved in Psi Chi's Network for International Collaborative Exchange (NICE).
- Take a look at other research resources here.
- Submit your research to the Psi Chi Journal of Psychological Research.

Connect with Psi Chi.
- Download the latest Chapter Handbook to get your academic year off to a great start!
- Join our new Western Region Facebook Public Page to ask questions, post updates about your chapter, and chat with other Psi Chi members in our region.
- Faculty advisors: As you start to induct new members into your chapter, remember that the Membership Assistance Fund is available for faculty advisors to support potential members.

I would also like to remind you of opportunities at the Psi Chi Headquarters.
- As you plan your fall recruitment drives, remember that Psi Chi can now collect membership dues individually, rather than by chapter. If you decide to use this option, students will pay their society dues through the Psi Chi website when they are approved. Learn more about this option.
Please submit a brief Chapter Activity Report for potential publication in *Eye on Psi Chi*. The Chapter Activity Report is one of the objectives for the **Model Chapter Award**. [Submit your activity](#).

Students: Make sure to add your non-university email address to your member profile so you can stay connected with Psi Chi after you graduate! [Update your profile](#).

Celebrate your academic achievements withPsi Chi graduation regalia. [Order in advance](#) to avoid rush shipping charges.

We're excited to invite you to participate in **Pie for a Purpose**, a Global Chapter Service Project opportunity. This is a great chapter activity and a meaningful way to raise awareness and support for mental health advocacy—and we've made it super easy for you to get started! [Find out more](#).

Please feel free to reach out to me directly at [westernvp@psichi.org](mailto:westernvp@psichi.org) should you have any questions or if you have any programming suggestions for the WPA 2023 Convention.

Take care,

Brittany Avila, PhD  
Western Regional Vice-President  
University of Nevada, Reno