



# Nevada Psychological Association

## NPA News

### The Voice of Psychology in Nevada

#### Upcoming CE Events:

- **September 8th, 2023**  
**Supporting Professional Women & Professional Women of Color in the Field**  
Sonia Dhaliwal, PsyD and Angela Lewis, MS  
2 Cultural Competency CEs
- **September 29th, 2023**  
**Are We Over-Medicating Children in our Mental Health System?**  
Janet Cahill, Ph.D.  
Live, virtual webinar  
3 CEs
- **November 3rd, 2023**  
**Autism: Intersectionality, Assessment, and Treatment**  
Michelle McGuire, Psy.D.  
Live, virtual webinar  
6 CEs  
*See Back Cover for full calendar*

**It's Time to Renew Your NPA Dues for 2023/2024!**

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#### 2023 Spring Newsletter

#### ~~~~~ A Message from our President ~~~~~

Connection.Collaboration. *Comunidad.* I don't know about you, but I know I am definitely in desperate need for these things.

After the past few years, it feels that these are the values most needed for many of us. The desire to be in *community*, to connect authentically with others, and to engage in meaningful and impactful collaboration can be felt now more than ever. As I begin my tenure as President of the Nevada Psychological Association, I am both filled with gratitude for the opportunity and motivated by the potential of what we can continue to accomplish in the year ahead, together.

I look at the amazing legacy of the past presidents, the changes they were able to achieve, and the hopes that remain of what this association can be. Taking those hopes forward, I want NPA to be representative of the community of psychologists across this resilient state I now call home and for it to be a space that students and psychologists want to be a part of. I am mindful that this has not always been the case and that there is work to do. But that is the work I am passionate about doing. And there is a palpable feeling that tells me many others are too.

Doing the work requires challenging ourselves to be uncomfortable, stretching ourselves beyond what we think we're capable of, and trusting in our potential. With the incredible psychologists in our community and students who continue to push us forward, our potential is already showing. The work is underway!

Already this year, members of the Legislative Committee, under our remarkable co-chairs Drs. Drucker and McGuire, have been busy with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Nevada Legislature, advocating for legislation that promotes increased attention to cultural competence, supports workforce development and parity, promotes gender affirming care, and protects the integrity of forensic evaluations. Our Diversity Committee, under the wonderful Dr. Caver, has continued to take part in Pride Las



Vegas and begun work on developing a Diversity mission statement. NPA's Continuing Education Committee has worked to prioritize diversity within CE offerings, increasing continuing education on clinical considerations with diverse SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) communities, immigrant and Latinx populations, and understanding the impact of white supremacy culture on mental health. Shoutout to fantastic presenters such as Drs. Allen, Patterson, Chapple-Love, Abreu, Dhaliwal, and Radjenovic for providing the above trainings and to all of our incredible CE presenters! We are moving forward!

My presidential initiatives fall in line with the goal of continued growth through doing the work and the qualities that can get us there: connection, collaboration, and community. In the coming year, I aim to: 1) increase NPA membership, making it more accessible and desirable to join our association; 2) engage our students, early career psychologists, and rural psychologists, hearing directly from our members and non-members; 3) foster community involvement and form collaborative relationships that support psychologists' and community needs; and 4) diversify our learning opportunities, focusing on increasing quality educational opportunities focused on minoritized populations from experts with lived experiences in those communities.

I hope that you will join me as we continue growing toward a more inclusive, representative, and connected association. Let's keep growing, together.

In gratitude,

Claudia Mejia, Psy.D.  
2023/2024 President  
Nevada Psychological Association

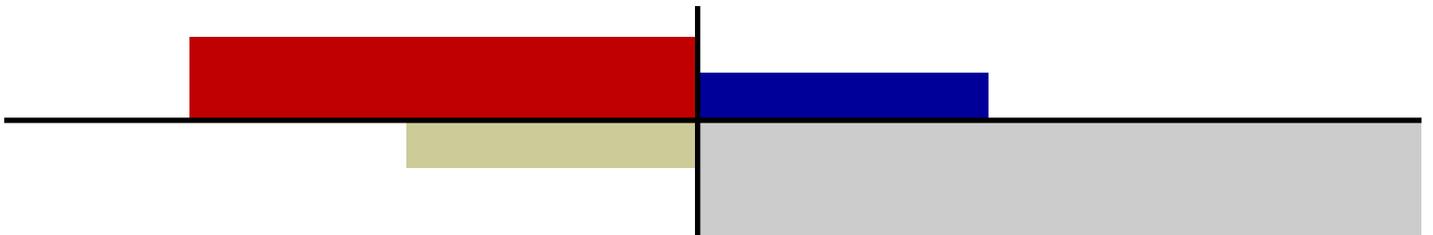
## 2022-2023: A Year in Review by Lauren Chapple-Love, Ph.D.

What a year! As many of you know, the Nevada legislature meets once every two years. Nevada Psychological Association has made leaps and bounds in our legislative efforts. Taking our cues from membership, NPA has been much more involved in the process of securing legislation that could help psychologists. With a particular focus upon the communities we all serve and increasing access to mental health care by improving the healthcare workforce pipeline, NPA attended the Nevada Mental Health Day celebration in Carson City in February 2023. Several of us were even recognized on the Assembly floor! The Legislative Committee has been tracking legislation with you all in mind and have had meetings with legislators via our new lobbying firm. I encourage all of you to reach out if there are particular issues or legislation important to you.



As I approach the end of my term as your President, I'm delighted to announce that a project that is personal to me has also been moving forward. I am overjoyed to announce the creation of the NPA mentorship program! This is a program that will help psychologists-in-training link with NPA members on issues related to professional development. If your professional development journey was anything like mine, other psychologists and mentors in the field helped us achieve our current status. I firmly believe in holding the door open behind me as I enter new rooms and have no doubt this program could assist with helping students and trainees have more access to the expertise we have in this state. As I have mentioned before, I believe improving workforce development, access to behavioral health care, and improving the culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion within Nevada starts with us! If you are interested in this program, please feel free to reach out or check the NPA website for more information on how to join.

~ Lauren Chapple-Love, Ph.D.  
2022/2023 NPA President



# Thank You

**To the Practice Directorate,  
the Committee of State Leaders  
and the Board of Professional Affairs**  
for awarding a Small State Operational Grant of \$13,500 to NPA.  
This subsidy helps cover NPA's central office operations.  
CSL and BPA continue to recognize the need of assistance by  
very small State Associations in maintaining central office  
operations, which is greatly appreciated by NPA.

This grant, made possible from funds collected through the practice assessment of licensed psychologists, is awarded in the spirit of resource sharing to support projects aimed at promoting the practice of psychology. **NPA encourages all of its members to join APA.**

## 2023 Annual Strategic Planning Meeting—Saturday, May 6th

This year's Strategic Planning Meeting was held in person in Las Vegas, NV on Saturday, May 6th, 2023. We welcomed our officers and student members during our morning session where the incoming Officers for 2023/2024 were introduced by our Past-President Dr. Chapple-Love. This was followed by a brief overview of the mission and structure of NPA by Dr. Mejia, NPA President.

We were grateful to have our lobbyist representative, Ricky Gourrier from Tri-Strategies, provide us with a much-needed recap and update for Nevada's 82nd Legislative Session and the work that remains. NPA's Legislative Co-chairs, Dr. Drucker and Dr. McGuire then provided an overview of what we've been able to accomplish as well as planning for the Interim Session.

We reviewed the 2022-2024 three-year Strategic Plan, including going over each of our five Strategic Business Objectives (SBOs). We discussed how the assigned tasks translated into action over the past year. Dr. Mejia then shared her Presidential Goals during her 2023/2024 term, and how those are in line with our five SBOs.

With the goal of recruiting more members, connecting the community, and making NPA an inclusive organization, we spent time brainstorming novel ways to achieve these objectives. The discussions were wonderful and generated new and inspiring ideas that we look forward to implementing!

**The following are our 2023-2024 Strategic Business Objectives (SBOs) that we will continue in the year ahead:**

- **SBO#1: Improve Financial Stability**
- **SBO#2: Provide High Quality Services to Members**
- **SBO#3: Develop and Support Leadership**
- **SBO#4: Advocate for Psychology as a Science and Profession**
- **SBO#5: Embed Diversity and Inclusion into NPA culture**
- **SBO#6: Recruitment and Retention of Eligible Psychologists and Psychologists-in-Training**



We look forward to presenting you with tasks associated with the above SBOs, which include things such as events for early career psychologists, increased involvement in rural areas of Nevada, expanded use of and outreach on our association's website, and increased opportunities to hear from our members, students and Nevada psychologists. We are excited for what's to come with the energy generated during our Strategic Planning Meeting! Thanks to everyone that participated this year!





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## Legislative Committee Update

NPA's Legislative Committee (LC) has been hard at work collaborating with our legislative affairs/lobbyist team from Tri-Strategies, and advocating for psychologists in the State of Nevada. Several of the members of the Legislative Committee made their way to Carson City on February 16<sup>th</sup> for Mental Health Day at the State Legislature. We were lucky enough to sit on the floor of the assembly and have our work introduced. As a group, we met key legislators to advocate for workforce development, scope of practice, and other mental health challenges in our state. Currently, the LC is tracking numerous bills, providing testimony, and weighing in on the important issues impacting our state.



As many of you know, Nevada ranks 51<sup>st</sup> overall in prevalence of mental illness and access to care. As a state, most of Nevada is in a mental health care health professional shortage area. The LC is working diligently to address this shortage. We are tracking and supporting several bills on student loan reimbursement, hoping to attract mental health professionals to our state. Additionally, we are supporting the establishment of a Behavioral Health Workforce Development Center. The LC also supported a bill, though unsuccessfully, which would have allowed psychological trainees, interns, and assistants to bill insurance, under the direct supervision of a licensed psychologist. There are several bills supporting gender-affirming care where the LC has provided testimony in support. The LC is also tracking a number of bills related to forensic evaluations, tort reform, cultural competence, and protecting the term "psychologist."

We could use your help in improving mental health in Nevada. Please reach out to learn more about the LC and our advocacy efforts.

Laurie Drucker, Psy.D. & Michelle McGuire, Psy.D.  
NPA Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

**NPA-PAC  
Needs  
Your**

We are reaching out to you to seek your donation to support our NPA-PAC and our legislative efforts and we are hoping every psychologist in Nevada will consider donating to the NPA-PAC. Even if you are not an NPA member know that your donation benefits all psychologists in the state by contributing to our presence at the Legislature. With your support, NPA can continue to better Nevada. With your donation to the NPA-PAC, you can contribute to the future of Nevada.

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- 1) Through our website, click [HERE](#)
- 2) By Venmo, click [HERE](#) (or scan QR code to the right)
- 3) By credit card, click on **SCAN ME** QR code to the right

## APA Council Representative Update—Dr. Noelle Lefforge

It's hard to believe that this is one of the last updates that I will be providing as my 6-year term as APA Council Representative for Nevada comes to an end. **Elections for our next representative will open on May 8 and close on June 7.** If you are an APA member, please make sure you receive your email ballot and cast your vote! I am eager to stay involved with APA Council and hopefully I will have the opportunity to work alongside Nevada's Representative (if I am elected as Council Leadership Team Chair).

APA Council of Representatives met during a hybrid meeting based in Washington DC on February 24 & 25. Given my extensive involvement on Council Orientation and Mentorship Program (COMP), I was heartened to hear many brand-new Council Reps speak "on the floor" throughout the meeting. APA culture and climate has really evolved in terms of inclusion and belonging. One of the highlights from the meeting for me occurred when President Thema Bryant 'called in' a microaggression that occurred on the Council floor. Substantial investment was made to allow us to process the event in a manner that was kind toward all but also firm in recognizing systemic oppression at play. While there is more work for APA to do, a strong foundation is in place.

In terms of APA policy, these outward-facing policies were passed at this meeting:

- [\*Resolution on Confidentiality and Reproductive Health\*](#)
- [\*Report on an Offer of Apology to First Peoples in the United States\*](#)
- [\*Educational Guidelines for Equitable and Respectful Treatment of Students in Graduate Psychology Training Programs\*](#)

Please reach out to me for additional information on any of these items. In alignment with my pledge for transparency, I voted in favor on all these policies.

APA's strategic plan is due for its update and the Strategic Plan Update Advisory Group is in motion. I encourage you to be vigilant for upcoming opportunities to be involved and ensure APA represents us in its ongoing vision.

Noelle Lefforge, Ph.D.  
APA Council Representative 2021/2023



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# ARE YOU HIRING?

## Exciting news!

NPA has launched an all-new **NPA Career Center** on our website!

**Are you hiring?** NPA's Career Center exclusively serves mental health professionals, putting your job opening in front of highly qualified candidates.

Our all-new Career Center is mobile-friendly, incredibly convenient and easy to use. Jobs can be posted any time in under 5 minutes. 30-60-90-Day Listings are available and are displayed on the home page of our website.

**Upgrade to a Featured Listing** to publish your job on the Google Jobs Network, so your job opening can be found by millions of job seekers who search on Google every day! Discounted rates are available to current NPA members.

To Access NPA's Career Center, [click here](#)



## Nevada Psychological Association: 2023-2024 Executive Board Members



navigating systemic barriers.

**President: Claudia Mejia, Psy.D. (she/her/ella)**, is a bicultural-bilingual (Spanish-English) licensed psychologist in Nevada, working as an independent contractor with non-profit community agencies where she provides direct clinical services to clients, develops behavioral health programming, provides mental health workshops, and supervises graduate trainees. Dr. Mejia prioritizes BIPOC mental health, integrated behavioral healthcare, and bilingual clinical service provision and training. As President of NPA, Dr. Mejia looks forward to engaging with NPA membership, fostering inclusivity, and increasing participation of members. She brings her experience of over 10 years as a mental health provider as well as her lived experience as a Latina psychologist



**President-Elect: Christopher Shewbarran, Psy.D.** is a Licensed Psychologist at Reflections Therapy in Las Vegas, NV. He is a graduate of the American School of Professional Psychology, San Francisco Bay Area, and he is originally from Tampa, Florida, home of the 2020 and 2021 Stanley Cup Champions Tampa Bay Lightning, and the 2020 Super Bowl Champions Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Dr. Shewbarran's served two years on the NPA Southern Board, as Treasurer and Regional President. He looks forward to actively working with the NPA Executive Board and membership community throughout his term as President-Elect.



**Past President, Lauren Chapple-Love, Ph.D.** Dr. Chapple-Love's clinical experience primarily lies in Forensic and Correctional Psychology. While in the community, she has worked with court-mandated individuals and in sexual health. Dr. Chapple-Love has focused on diverse populations (e.g. LGBTQAI+, People of Color, the Kink community, etc.) and the ways that they process and can excel while living within systems of oppression and majority culture spaces. She has served as the former Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Chair. Dr. Chapple-Love is currently serving as President of NPA, the first Black-identified psychologist to be elected in the organization's nearly 35 year history. She is the owner of Elle Psychological Services, LLC, a private practice that currently focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion training & consultation.



**Secretary & Legislative Co-Chair: Michelle McGuire, Psy.D.** is a Nevada Licensed Psychologist. She has a diverse background working with a number of different populations, including developmental and intellectual disabilities, serious mental illness, and chemical dependency, providing individual, group, couples and family therapy to children, adolescents, and adults. She is the CEO and Director of Psychological Services of Creative Behavioral Connections providing neuropsychological testing and oversight of treatment services for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other Neurodevelopmental Disorders.



**Treasurer: Sunshine Collins, Psy.D.** is a licensed psychologist in Las Vegas providing clinical and forensic assessments and related services. She works directly with patients and also with attorneys, the courts, and county and state organizations. Having previously served as NPA Southern Board Secretary and Treasurer and NPA Executive Board Treasurer-In-Training, this is her first year as the NPA Executive Board Treasurer.



**Treasurer-in-Training & CE Committee Chair: Marquez, Wilson, Psy.D.** (they/them) is a graduate of Adler University of Chicago. They completed their internship and post-doc at the University of Nevada, Reno Counseling Services. They have a passion of working with underserved and under-research populations. Additionally, advocating for access to mental health and the ethical, equitable practice of psychology within the state of Nevada



**Southern Regional President: Sonia Dhaliwal, Psy.D.** is a Licensed Psychologist and currently runs her own private practice in Las Vegas, NV. Dr. Dhaliwal is also the CEO and founder of RaD Diversity Consulting. Dr. Dhaliwal currently serves as Southern Region Board Secretary of the Nevada Psychological Association (NPA). She also serves on the board of an organization called Step UP! which was developed to empower Rwandan women who are survivors of the genocide.



**Northern Regional President: Lucas Cylke, Ph.D.** is currently a private practice psychologist in Reno, NV. He completed his internship at University of Nevada, Reno Counseling Services and completed his graduate education at Wichita State University. He sees himself as a generalist and has an emphasis in treating OCD. In his free time he enjoys worrying about his plants in his garden.

## Nevada Psychological Association: 2023-2024 Executive Board Members



**APA Council Rep: Noelle Lefforge, Ph.D., ABPP** served as a faculty member and an assistant training clinic director at UNLV for ten years and has held various positions within NPA. She is now the Director of the Professional Psychology Clinic at University of Denver's Graduate School of Professional Psychology where she is active in teaching, training, supervision, clinical service delivery, research, mentorship, advocacy, and interprofessional education and practice.



**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Chair: Dr. Lea Caver, Ph.D.** Dr. Caver received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Saint Louis University. Her research and clinical interests include, but are not limited to, discrimination, previously incarcerated individuals, veterans, trauma, salient and non-salient identities, and DBT. In her personal life, Dr. Caver is a proud nerd that enjoys anime, comics, and video games.



**ECP Co-Chair, South: Rachael Pinkerman, Ph.D.** is a licensed psychologist currently working at an outpatient clinic within the Las Vegas VA system. Her experience primarily lies in working with individuals with severe and persistent mental illness in inpatient settings, forensic psychology, and group psychotherapy. In her free time, she enjoys going out to eat and probably can recommend a great place to try if you're looking for something new.



**ECP Co-Chair, North: Persephone Crittendon, Psy.D.** is a licensed psychologist specializing in neuropsychological assessment of adults and is the founder of Peak Neuropsychology in Reno, NV. She completed a neuropsychology fellowship at Harvard Medical School/Cambridge Health Alliance where she also completed her clinical internship. She earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology/Neuropsychology from PGSP-Stanford Psy.D. Consortium.



**Legislative Co-Chair, North: Laura Drucker, Psy.D.** has been licensed as a psychologist in Nevada since 2003. She graduated with a degree in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University in 2001. Dr. Drucker works in private practice providing outpatient psychotherapy services to children, adolescents, and adults. Dr. Drucker provides integrative treatment informed by neuroscience, mindfulness, and insight-oriented therapies.



**Public Education Campaign Coordinator: Robert Moering, Psy.D.** currently works as the Chief of Psychosocial Recovery and Rehabilitation Services for the Las Vegas VA where he oversees all of the recovery service programs as well as supervision of all Peer Support Specialists. Dr. Moering also has over 20 years of experience in forensic psychology.



**Northern Region State Advocacy Coordinator: Jorge Cao (UNR)** is a Ph.D. student in Clinical Psychology coming from Spain. He provides clinical services to both Spanish and English speakers under the supervision of Dr. Lorraine Benuto making a direct impact in underserved communities. His research focus in the relationship between trauma and bilingualism, concretely, in how code-switching can improve the treatment of PTSD and other Trauma-related disorders.



**Southern Region State Advocacy Coordinator: Kinsey Ellis (UNLV)** is a 4th year student in the Clinical Psychology PhD program at UNLV. Her research focuses on child maltreatment, emotional regulation strategy utilization, and PTSD. She enjoys working with youth of all ages in clinical settings, particularly those struggling with posttraumatic symptomatology.



Board  
of Directors

## Nevada Psychological Association: 2023-2024 Regional Board Members

### NPA Northern Region Board Members



**Northern Regional Vice-President & Treasurer: Marquez, Wilson, Psy.D.** (they/them) is a graduate of Adler University of Chicago. They completed their internship and post-doc at the University of Nevada, Reno Counseling Services. They have a passion of working with underserved and under-research populations. Additionally, advocating for access to mental health and the ethical, equitable practice of psychology within the state of Nevada

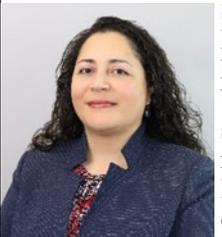


**Northern Region Secretary: Francesca Kassing, Ph.D.** is an Administrative Research Faculty in Counseling Services at the University of Nevada, Reno. She serves as a co-investigator for a multi-site, NIMH-funded study focused on treating suicidality in college students and provides individual and group therapy to UNR students on campus. Her primary clinical and research interests include trauma and adversity, suicidality, and working with LGBTQ+ individuals.



**UNR Campus Representative: Stephanie Reyes** is a second-year graduate student in the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program at the University of Nevada, Reno. Currently, Stephanie has developed a Spanish telenovela series that utilizes the UP transdiagnostic protocol with hopes of increasing access to behavioral health services for Latinxs. Her broad goal is to increase accessibility to culturally sensitive treatments for underrepresented Latinxs struggling with anxiety, depression, interpersonal difficulties, or trauma.

### NPA Southern Region Board



**Southern Regional Vice-President: Irma Corral, Ph.D.** is the Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV. Dr. Corral earned her PhD from the San Diego State University - U.C. San Diego's joint doctoral program in Clinical Psychology. Her research focuses on sociocultural and structural factors in health behavior and chronic illness, as well as racial/ethnic disparities in physical and mental health. Within the diversity, equity, and inclusion space, her interests include faculty development, learning environment management, medical Spanish programs for future healthcare workers, and mentoring of first-gen students in psychology and medicine.



**Southern Region Secretary: Angela Lewis, M.S.** is currently in the process of completing her doctorate in the summer of 2023 in Counseling Psychology at Western Michigan University. Angela continues to reside and practice in Las Vegas following the completion of her predoctoral internship at UNLV CAPS. Angela has experience working in community, school, clinical settings, and university counseling centers with a diverse population of children, adults, and college students. Her primary clinical and research interests include concerns related to social identities such as race, gender, and sexual identity with her dissertation topic being on Black bisexual women's career experiences."



**Southern Region Treasurer: Sara Hunt, Ph.D.** is the Assistant Dean of Behavioral Health Sciences at the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health. She has worked in medical settings on multidisciplinary teams and advocates for integrated models of healthcare. Dr. Hunt's work with the UNLV Mental and Behavioral Health Training Coalition is focused on addressing the mental and behavioral health workforce shortage in Nevada.



**UNLV Campus Representative: Rakshitha Mohankum** is a first-year student in the Clinical Psychology doctoral program at UNLV. She completed her Master's in Research and Experimental Psychology at San Jose State University in 2022, where her thesis focused on cultural influences of mental health perceptions. Rakshitha has also previously worked at the Palo Alto VA on research projects focusing on substance use and weight management. She is interested in pursuing research related to identifying stressors and improving mental and emotional functioning via coping in individuals. Rakshitha enjoys traveling, trying out new restaurants and cafes, and spending time with her pup Denny.

## CONGRATULATIONS to our 2023 NPA Award Winners!

Every year at our Annual Business Meeting, NPA recognizes outstanding psychologists for their contributions to both the field of Psychology and our organization. This year's Annual Business Meeting was held on Friday, May 5th in Las Vegas and we are pleased to recognize our 2023 NPA Award Winners!



### 2023 Legislator of the Year Award



**Assemblywoman Sarah Peters** has passionately advocated for mental health parity, understanding mental health is as important as physical health. Assemblywoman Peters supports education, including improving public and charter schools, increasing the number of qualified teachers, and making schools safer. Her dedication to equality, including women's rights and LGBTQIA+ rights is inspiring. NPA recognizes Assemblywoman Peters' commitment to mental health parity for Nevadan's reflects both personal and professional priorities. NPA values your service to our state on the Washoe County Regional Behavioral Health Board and as leader of the Assembly Health and Human Services committee.

### 2023 James Mikawa Award



*This award honors a psychologist whose work is outstanding in the field*

**Lorraine T. Benuto, Ph.D.** is one of the most dedicated professors within the psychology field. She represents the best ideals of our field as she seeks to continuously improve the mental health of the Latinx population all while mentoring minority students so that they can also improve the well-being of underrepresented populations. She is the founder of two specialized clinics for Latinas, La Clinica and VI-VA, and one specialized clinic for survivors of domestic violence, THRIVE. She has over approximately 2 million dollars of external funding, which she uses to fund her clinics so mental health services are free for English and Spanish speaking community members. Additionally, given the treatment-provider gap

whereby there is a lack of Spanish-speaking mental health providers, through her research, Dr. Benuto seeks to increase access to and disseminate mental health services to reduce the treatment-provider gap. All her efforts have drastically improved the mental well-being of Spanish-speaking community members as the free Spanish services offered reduce financial difficulties from hindering treatment-seeking behaviors. Additionally, her research has provided the field with enormous information about Latinx mental health and how to best adapt treatments for this population.

### 2023 Outstanding Advocacy Award



*This award honors a psychologist whose advocacy efforts have impacted psychology and psychologists.*

**Michelle McGuire, Psy.D.** As co-chair of the Legislative Committee Dr. McGuire has stepped up and into advocating for psychology, mental health, and consumers of mental health services in Nevada. She brings her passion and commitment to this process – reviewing legislation and speaking to the issues in developing NPA's responses. This is not surprising given her history of advocating for her clients with autism and their need for compassionate and comprehensive services, for the children in the foster care system that she evaluates and testifies on behalf of, and for the needs and rights of transgender and other LGBTQ youth and adults. In addition, she is creating opportunities for graduate level training with the students and interns she

mentors, helping to increase the workforce of psychologists in our state. Those same students are introduced to the importance of advocacy during their training with Dr. McGuire – helping to ensure the legacy of psychologists as scientists, practitioners, and advocates in Nevada.

### 2023 Outstanding Contribution to NPA Award



*This award honors a psychologist whose work in our association has been of benefit to the organization.*

**Sara Hunt, Ph.D.** has and continues to volunteer her time on both Executive and Regional boards as well as the Legislative Committee. She brings both her knowledge of statewide mental health delivery systems and her positive and encouraging presence to our Boards and Committees. Dr. Hunt's contributions to the development of NPA's legislative and advocacy efforts continue to help us stay abreast of policy development and responsive to emerging legislation. Additionally, Dr. Hunt has been instrumental in workforce development efforts in Nevada, tirelessly working to create opportunities to train, retain, and grow the number of psychologists in our state. Her contributions make NPA better as serving our members and

increase the likelihood that more psychologists will find membership in NPA beneficial.

### 2023 Student Poster Presentations & Winners!



1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner: "Sense of Relatedness from Racial Groups within Maltreated Youth", Jessica Castillo

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner: "Transgender Individuals in Cisnormative Sex Education", Aaron Aguilar-Bonnette

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner: "Examining Differences in PTSD Symptomatology Among Youth Who Have Experienced Sexual and Psychological Maltreatment Using Nonparametric Analyses", Domschot, Emma

4<sup>th</sup> Place Winner: "Assessing Resiliency Factors and Delinquency Behavior in Maltreated Youth", Jessica Castillo, Richard Ho, Emma Domschot, Katie Conklin, Amanda Mraz M.A.

*Congratulations!*

## Invest in the Future of Psychology! Join NPA Today!

 Follow us on Twitter: [@NVPsychology](https://twitter.com/NVPsychology)

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 Like Us on Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/NevadaPsychologicalAssociation](https://www.Facebook.com/NevadaPsychologicalAssociation)

Follow us on social media to see some of the events we've been a part of, and to receive updates on training events.

## Are You a Member of NPA?

You should be and here is why!

*The mission of the Nevada Psychological Association (NPA) is to advance and represent psychology as a science and a profession, as well as to serve the professional needs of its membership and the community.*

As a member of the Nevada Psychological Association, you are making an investment in the future of psychology! And here are some of NPA membership benefits:

- **Advocacy**—Receive professional and legislative updates on things impacting us in Nevada. Join a committed group of people promoting NPA's core values:
  - Diversity, inclusion and social justice
  - Application of knowledge based on scientific methods
  - Ethical behavior
  - Support, advocacy and mentorship of psychologists
- **Community**—Meet other psychologists, engage in networking & take part in our social events.
- **Educational Opportunities**—Receive CEs at a discounted rate (free for our student members!), access our homestudy library & receive diversity-centered lunch and learns.
- **Opportunity to Give Back**—Engage in leadership roles, speaking engagements, advocacy of issues important to you, and general professional development.
- **Be an active part of psychology in Nevada!**—Passion. Drive. Be a part of something larger! Our community allows for this and so much more.



It is time to invest in psychology in Nevada! Become a member of NPA today so you can take advantage of these benefits! Our members are psychologists, psychology students, and others interested in psychology and the mental health field.

Join Online Today at [www.NVPsychology.org](http://www.NVPsychology.org)  
or simply SCAN our QR Code!



## Want to get more Involved with NPA? Join one of our Committees!

### NPA Committees:

**Legislative:** Advocates for psychology and psychologists by participating in the development of legislation and policies relating to mental and behavioral health services in Nevada. The Legislative Committee advises the Board of Directors of suggested legislative actions, and carries out such actions as approved by the board with the assistance of the NPA lobbyist. This may include proposing legislation to be introduced to the Nevada State Legislature, meeting with legislators, arranging for educational meetings about legislative matters for members and legislators, building relationships with others interested in mental health issues which are of common interest with psychologists, developing relationships with state agencies to further mental health services and facilitate the status and role of psychologists within the state. NPA's advocacy efforts are supported by your membership in NPA. NPA's advocacy benefits all psychologists, NOT just those who belong to our organization.

**Continuing Education (CE):** CE Committee's mission is to develop high-quality, regionally distributed, CE workshops for professional psychologists covering the full range of specialty practice and professional services and settings. We are responsible for the planning and execution of 4-5 continuing education trainings each year, including the Annual Conference. Courses presented are timely, relevant and culturally sensitive to the diverse population served by our members, and satisfy the requirements for licensure by the NV Board of Psychological Examiners. NPA is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor CEs for psychologists.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI):** The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is dedicated to promoting diversity statewide in Nevada. This includes welcoming psychologists from diverse backgrounds as well as promoting culturally sensitive services and practices to the community. NPA has developed a Diversity Mission statement, which includes scientific and evidence-based information about working with diverse populations in our CE trainings. We strongly support full equity and inclusion of individuals of different genders, ethnicities, ages, backgrounds, sexual orientations, abilities, national origin, immigration status, and so on, within our organization and throughout our communities across the world.

**Early Career Psychologists (ECPs):** We are proud to have ECP's strongly represented on our regional and state boards, and send an ECP to the annual APA Practice Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. NPA is committed to supporting the needs of early career psychologists by offering discounts on membership, opportunities to participate in monthly support group meetings, and extends a special welcome to newly licensed psychologists every fall at annual social events, held in both Las Vegas and Reno. We are active in recruiting ECP's to participate in committees and leadership positions in the state, and offer mentorship opportunities to interested psychologists.

**Public Education Campaign (PEC):** This is an formerly APA-sponsored initiative. Current initiatives include campaigns on Mind/Body Health and Resilience and the Psychologically Healthy Workplace Awards. In addition, promotes mental health through public meetings, community outreach, and in all forms of media.

Want more Info? Contact our Executive Director at [admin@nvpsychology.org](mailto:admin@nvpsychology.org) or (888) 654-0050

## 2023 APASI Practice & State Leadership Conference

The Practice Leadership Conference (PLC) is an invitation-only event that brings together psychologists from the State, Provincial, and Territorial Psychological Associations (SPTAs) across the U.S. and Canada, along with APA governance and a few divisions. The Practice Leadership Conference (PLC) is the premier event for APA and SPTA leaders to co-create transformational impact for the psychology profession and critical societal issues. PLC is an opportunity for SPTA leaders to network and converse about professional issues, association management challenges, and trends occurring at the state and federal level. The conference also fosters leadership and effective governance strategies for participating associations. This year, we were fortunate to send a delegation of seven NPA Officers to the 2023 PLC, held in Washington D.C. on March 2nd—5th. Here are the delegation write-ups about their experiences in D.C. for the 2023 Practice Leadership Conference:

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of attending the 2023 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Practice & SPTA Leadership Conference (PLC) by the American Psychological Association in Washington, D.C. as president-elect of the Nevada Psychological Association. Those few days were filled with amazing connection, opportunities to network, and space to share ideas of how other state, provincial, and territorial associations (SPTA) are addressing timely issues.

Aside from the opportunity to connect more personally with our NPA delegates (nighttime sightseeing and pizza-eating was wonderful!), being able to engage with other SPTA presidents-elect during the affinity group breakouts was extremely valuable. I heard firsthand some of the challenges other SPTAs faced, challenges that we in Nevada can relate to. We spoke about issues such as difficulties increasing membership, developing leadership pipelines, and how to achieve fiscal sustainability. Being able to commiserate and not feel alone on these matters allowed for brainstorming and we were able to gather solution-focused ideas as well as hearing from SPTAs who had success in some of those areas. Things included ways to make membership more accessible, increasing membership benefits, and improving diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. I also felt extremely proud of many of the things we are doing well, such as our board and committee structures, consistent meetings, and our continuing education programming. The timing of PLC was perfect as it allowed our NPA delegation to come back with so many wonderful ideas, which were shared during our Annual Strategic Planning Meeting, turning the abstract into tangible steps. I am excited about these ideas and know that the ideas generated will allow us to have an amazing year ahead and continue growing as an association. Extremely grateful to have taken part! Claudia Mejia, Psy.D., 2023/24 NPA President

My attendance to the PLC Conference has provided me with the tools, and more important, the motivation to keep advocating for the students in the state of Nevada. As students, we often feel as if our voice was not heard which, added to the overwhelming workload we always face, reduces our motivation or ability to aim to make bigger changes. However, being able to share my experiences with the student representatives of other states during the affinity groups, as well as attending to enlightening presentations of big personalities such as APA President Dr. Thema Bryant, has helped me realize the importance of State Associations such as NPA. Either by advocating for the interests of licensed psychologists or psychology students, NPA places a crucial role in improving the field of psychology in the state of Nevada, and collaborating actively with our association can really make a difference. Additionally, learning about other states' current issues and how they overcame past difficulties has also provided me with the ideas and motivation needed to improve the journeys of our psychology students. Among the different issues discussed, increasing graduate stipends and reducing barriers to ethnoracial minorities received particular interest. Additional subjects were some of the logistical barriers that undocumented and international students face, as well as several issues related to the internship matching system. Furthermore, apart from ideas on where to redirect our efforts to guarantee the results expected, the conference also provided us with the opportunity to network with different members of APA who could help us advocate on this subjects at a broader level.

Jorge Cao, State Advocacy Coordinator North, Graduate Student delegate

This spring I was lucky enough to attend the APA's Practice and State & Provincial Psychological Associations Leadership Conference as the Early Career Psychologist Committee representative for NPA. The conference included talks from various individuals in leadership positions within the APA as well as small group discussions with individuals from other State & Provincial Psychological Associations representing their Early Career Psychologists. It was reassuring to hear from APA leadership what they have been doing to support state psychological associations and how they plan to continue doing so. This conference was a great opportunity for me to speak with individuals from other state & provincial psychological associations about what their organizations are doing. The experience of speaking to others who are passionate about growing and bettering their psychological associations was invigorating. It was exciting to share the ways that NPA provides value to its members and specifically ECP members, and to hear what other state psychological associations are doing that NPA may adopt. I was able to gather some new ideas for how I can continue to encourage and expand the involvements of ECPs in NPA. Moving forward, I would like to enhance the support and communication between ECPs within NPA by having a variety of opportunities to connect with each other. I would like to have a mix of social and informative events specifically geared towards ECPs. Within my role as the Southern Co-Chair of the ECP committee, I hope to continue growing the involvement of ECPs within NPA and within NPA leadership. I believe that there is great value in being a member of NPA, and I hope to add value to ECPs involvement in NPA. Additionally, if you find value in being a member of NPA, please encourage your colleagues to join! I would like to ask all ECPs to think about what they are wanting and needing from NPA, and to share their thoughts with me. For all members of NPA that are no longer ECPs, I want to hear what you would have found helpful or beneficial from NPA as an ECP. I am excited to implement some of the ideas I heard at PLC and I hope my fellow ECPs will find these new ideas and changes as exciting as I do. Rachael Pinkerman, Ph.D. 2023/24 ECP Chair South

## 2023 APASI Practice & State Leadership Conference

In early March many of us on the Executive Board of NPA had the opportunity to attend PCL 2023. Invigorating, refreshing, energizing, and contemplative are merely some of the words I would use to describe the experience.

As the chair of NPA's DEI committee chair I had the privilege and honor to attend the conference as one of the DEI delegates in the Diversity Leadership Training Program (DLTP). For those who are unaware, the DLTP was created by past APA President Jennifer Kelly, PhD in 2009 during her presidency at Division 31. The program has been held every two years since that time and focuses on increasing ethnic and racial leadership and advocacy representation with SPTAs and APA.



(2023 Diversity Leadership Group Pic)

Hopefully we can all breathe a sigh of relief and satisfaction that our SPTA is not alone in its desire to increase DEI efforts; including but not limited to education, resources, training, and mentorship. Each state treads this path uniquely; focusing and prioritizing different aspects in accordance with their membership and state needs. As your DEI chair, I would love to hear from NPA members regarding our path forward. As a purveyor of psychology, when you think about your own personal DEI journey; where are you and where would you like to be? How can we at NPA walk with you on this journey and assist you, regardless of developmental level?

Our discussions during DLTP did not dance around the sociopolitical barriers that many SPTAs are facing; legislation that continues to target marginalized and underserved communities, changes in educational curriculums, book bans, etc. All of these pieces deeply impacting our communities, patients, and lives. The sociopolitical context cannot be ignored and contributes to the shaping of our barriers and strengths. I encourage all of us to take collective responsibility for DEI initiatives/efforts; especially as it relates to our state and the various communities we serve. To hold each other accountable with love and compassion. I encourage you to show up and be present for others in places where you hold power and privilege. To strive for cultural humility and cultural curiosity. To learn and listen. With that, I would ask you consider your role within NPA and whether your journey includes increased involvement with our organization. I know I speak for the entire DEI committee when I say we would love to have you.

Leandrea (Lea) Caver, Ph.D., Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Chair and delegate

As the incoming President-Elect for NPA during the 2023-2024 year, I had the privilege of attending the 2023 APA Practice Leadership Conference (PLC) in Washington, D.C. While there, each delegation member was able to attend an Affinity Group to collaborate and strategize with leaders from other state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations (SPTA) about different issues, including diversity, leadership, state advocacy, building coalitions with other SPTA, engaging members and non-members of NPA, and goals for the future.

While serving as President of the Southern Regional Board during this past year, and along with the Southern Regional Board members, one of my goals was to expand engaging members of NPA and creating ways we can become more accessible and benefit our current members at all levels of membership, as well as our prospective and non-members. I believe we progressed on that goal during the past year, though I think we have plenty of room for growth moving forward. During my Affinity Group meetings with President-Elects of other SPTA, I was able to discuss with other President-Elects about how we may progress on this goal moving forward, such as by having NPA membership be more accessible. I look forward to continuing to work on this goal during the next few years as I serve on the Executive Board.

Another goal I look forward to progressing on is expanding our outreach towards others. During my meetings with my Affinity Group, it became evident to me that many individuals residing in Nevada with an interest in the field of psychology or those who work, participate, or contribute to our field may not know of our existence, what or who we are, or how to go about connecting with or joining NPA. By developing and growing our presence and reach in different ways, which may include working with other SPTA, organizations, or groups, it would allow prospective or non-members to have an opportunity to network, collaborate, and join us. I also look forward to progressing on this goal moving forward.

I am very excited, grateful, and honored to be to serving as your President-Elect during the next year. I welcome any NPA member or non-member to reach out to us if you have any questions, ideas, thoughts, or concerns. NPA exists because of you, and I want to be able to support you however I can as your President-Elect.

Christopher Shewbarran, Psy.D., 2023/24 NPA President-Elect

Practice  
Leadership  
Conference  
2023

| PRACTICE & STATE LEADERSHIP



AMERICAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## THANK YOU to our 2022/2023 NPA Officers!

Thank you to all who served NPA as Officers, Representatives and Committee Chairs!  
Your time and energy keeps NPA going!

### 2022/2023 NPA Board of Directors

President	Dr. Lauren Chapple-Love
President-Elect	Dr. Claudia Mejia
Past-President	Dr. Tara Borsh
Treasurer	Dr. Sunshine Collins
No. Region President	Dr. Lucas Cylke
So. Region President	Dr. Christopher Shewbarran
CE Committee Chair:	Dr. Kelly O'Neill
So. Region ECP Chair:	Dr. Rachael Pinkerman
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Chair:	Dr. Lea Caver
No. Region Legislative Chair	Dr. Laura Drucker
So. Region Legislative Chair:	Dr. Michelle McGuire
Public Education Campaign (PEC) Chair:	Dr. Robert Moering
No. Region State Advocacy Coordinator (SAC):	Jorge Cao
So. Region State Advocacy Coordinator (SAC):	Mallory Constantine

### 2022/2023 Northern Region Board:

President	Dr. Lucas Cylke
Vice-President	Dr. Marquez Wilson
Treasurer	Dr. Elysse Kompaniez-Dunigan
Secretary	Dr. Francesca Kassing
Campus Representative	Cosette Canovas

### 2022/2023 Southern Region Board:

President	Dr. Christopher Shewbarran
Vice-President	Dr. Sonia Dhaliwal
Treasurer	Dr. Sara Hunt
Secretary	Dr. Sonia Dhaliwal
Campus Representative	Amanda Mraz & Kinsey Ellis

### 2022/2023 Representation:

APA Council Representative	Dr. Noelle Lefforge
Federal Advocacy Coordinator	Dr. Amy Black

Thank you to all who joined/renewed their 2022/2023 NPA membership dues.  
**DOUBLE Thanks to those who contributed additionally!**  
Your generosity enables us to continue our programs!

### Honoring our Sustaining Members: \*

Charles Colosimo	Yvonne Fritz	Kenneth McKay
Kristen Davis-Coelho	Iosette Iribarne	Jacqueline Pistorello
Sean Dodge	Thomas Kinsora	Susan Smith
Marie Doncaster	Regina Marshall	Sheila Young
Laura Drucker	Michelle McGuire	

*\*Contribution in addition to dues*

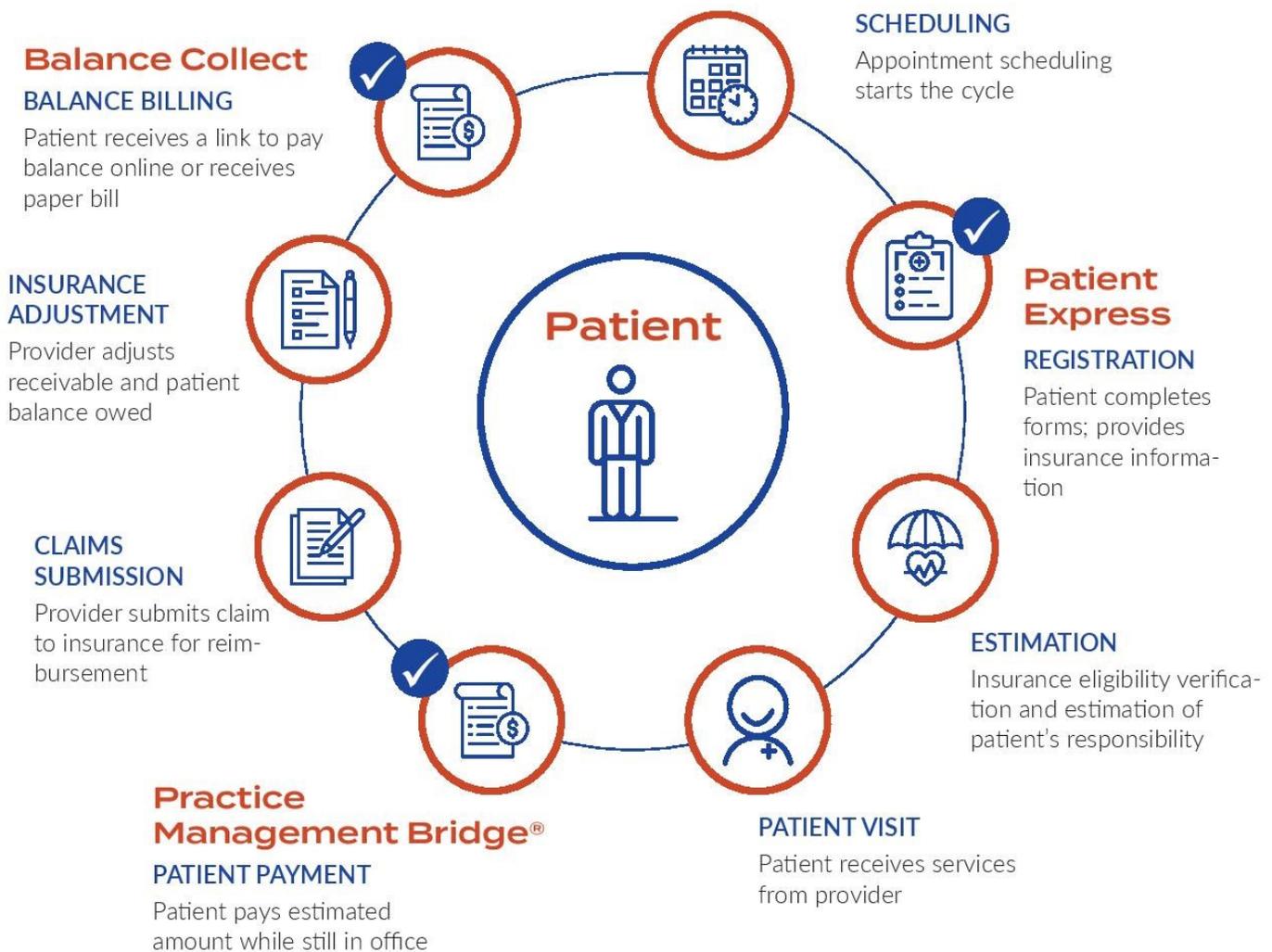
### Recognizing our Lifetime Members:

David Antonuccio	Roberta Ferguson
Richard Baldo	Bob Quilitch

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It's Time to Renew  
 Your NPA Dues  
 for 2023/2024!  
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# WHY JOIN NPA?



## NPA 2023 Continuing Education Calendar

### Supporting Professional Women and Professional Women of Color in the Field

**Sonia Dhaliwal, Psy.D. and Angela Lewis, M.S.**  
 Friday, September 8th 9:00am—11:00am  
 Live, virtual webinar  
 2 Cultural Competency CE Credits

### Are We Over-Medicating Children in our Mental Health System?

**Janet Cahill, Ph.D.**  
 Friday, September 29th 9:00am—12:15pm  
 Live, virtual webinar  
 3 CE Credits

### Autism: Intersectionality, Assessment and Treatment

**Michelle McGuire, Psy.D.**  
 Friday, November 3rd 9:00am—4:15pm  
 Live, virtual webinar  
 6 CE Credits

More Details and Registration available  
 online at: [www.NVpsychology.org](http://www.NVpsychology.org)  
 click on the LEARN tab or calendar  
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### Need CEs now?

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More Details will be available this Fall!

