



## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Anaheim, CA | Chicago, IL | Dallas, TX | Los Angeles, CA | New Orleans, LA | San Diego, CA | Washington, D.C. | Online

November 29, 2021

Dear TCSPP Community,

Since its founding in 1979, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology has advanced a mission that raises the voices of those who have been historically marginalized and underrepresented. Our model of education calls on us to fulfill our responsibilities as psychologists, behavioral health scientists, and nurses by being engaged practitioners who advocate on behalf of the clients, organizations, and communities we serve. To do so requires us to respectfully and courageously engage in conversations together in a manner that facilitates openness to a variety of viewpoints and, most importantly, creates an environment where we can learn from one another's unique experiences and perspectives.

Over the years, many in The Chicago School community have come forward to say they believe it is essential that I, as President, lead the way by raising my voice, and, through it, the voice of the University, when events arise that pull us to reflect on social justice issues. To these individuals, progress for the underrepresented cannot be made without taking a stance of awareness building and even activism. Conversely, others disagree and believe doing so compromises a necessary level of neutrality from which treatment providers and practitioners should approach the world and their work. When it comes to social justice, it can seem as though the diversity of perspectives is endless. To ensure we stay focused on our University's mission and adhere to our model of education, we must continue to come together to discuss the impact and meaning of these critical events despite what may be uncomfortable or upsetting divergent viewpoints.

As we return from the Thanksgiving break, I know that our classrooms and hallways will be filled with the news that, this past Wednesday, 12 jurors found the men who killed Ahmaud Arbery guilty of murder in New Brunswick, Georgia. As we necessarily come together to reflect on the most recent jury verdict, and the loss of yet another life, let's not get lost in divisiveness. Instead, let's continue to do our part to ensure we

fulfill our mission by coming together regardless of disagreement to protect those who are vulnerable and most in need. Let's support one another and ensure we are taking good care of ourselves in the process.

I want to also encourage us to look for ways to take action in support of issues related to social justice and diversity. There are numerous ways for you to get involved right here at TCSPP. Attached to this message are details related to our annual Inclusion Diversity Equity and Access (IDEA) grant program and I encourage your participation so that you can impact change in your local communities. In addition, our monthly Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) speaker series will resume again this January, where we are very excited to host Natalie Gillard, creator and facilitator of FACTUALITY, a facilitated dialogue, crash course, and interactive experience that simulates structural inequality. You can [register for her upcoming presentation here](#). Finally, The Chicago School is always looking for people to join its Diversity Advisory Board (DAB). You can contact co-chairs Dr. Alecia Eubanks at [aeubanks@thechicagoschool.edu](mailto:aeubanks@thechicagoschool.edu) or Kara Rice at [krice3@thechicagoschool.edu](mailto:krice3@thechicagoschool.edu) for details about joining the Board.

Kind regards,

Michele

Michele Nealon, Psy.D.  
President

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## Included Attachment:



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# Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Grant

Dear TCSPP Community,

In collaboration with the Diversity Advisory Board and the Cultural Impact Conference, we are requesting proposals for the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Grant Program at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (IDEAG@TCSPP). Our goal is to leverage the talent, passion, wisdom, and expertise of our diverse faculty and staff to help The Chicago School become the most welcoming and inclusive environment it can be.

The IDEAG@TCSPP Program aims to empower faculty (full-time, part-time, affiliates, and adjuncts), staff, and students, to become active and engaged advocates for diversity in order to create a university community where all individuals feel genuinely appreciated and where their contributions are thoughtfully considered and respected at all levels throughout the community hierarchy.

### **Purpose**

The primary purpose of the IDEAG@TCSPP is to encourage faculty, staff, and students to be the driving factor in developing and implementing initiatives that can help TCSPP realize in tangible ways the following strategies of the 2020-2025 strategic plan:

### **GOAL 2: Prepare for Generational, Global, and Regional Population and Demographic Changes**

**STRATEGY 2: Strengthened, developed, and expanded academic and student support structures and services that meet evolving student and community needs.**

**STRATEGY 3: Develop and bolster the infrastructure and supports needed to reduce inequities in outcomes across diverse racial and ethnic populations, socio-economic statuses, and people with different abilities through modernizing services, practices, and policies.**

In addition, consideration will also be given to proposals that contribute in measurable ways to TCSPP's Institutional Commitment to Diversity:

*"The Chicago School of Professional Psychology is committed to be a learning community that fosters an environment of mutual respect and inclusion where diversity and human rights are valued and where the learning environment is enhanced by each community member. Using an intersectional lens, TCSPP recognizes that members of our learning community hold memberships in various cultures and other diverse aspects of the human experience (e.g., race, gender, gender identity, religion, spirituality, sexual/affective orientation, ability, class, and socioeconomic status, immigration) which enhances our understanding of contexts and promotes cultural competency."*

**Applicant Requirements:** All applicants for this funding must be faculty or staff members at TCSPP. TCSPP students will also be eligible if sponsored and mentored by TCSPP faculty or staff member. Upon receipt of an award, the faculty or staff lead would be responsible for managing the grant and submitting a mandatory Grant Closure Report **due 30 days** after the grant end on May 31 of the fiscal year the award was granted. Applicants are encouraged to include participation of additional current faculty, staff, and students from within and across colleges, schools, or other academic units. Applications from campus affinity groups are acceptable, provided that the Project Leader is faculty or a staff member at TCSPP.

Applicants should send the completed application form via email to [IDEAG@thechicagoschool.edu](mailto:IDEAG@thechicagoschool.edu) by **Friday, January 14**. Applications will be received on a rolling basis up to the deadline date. All award recipients will be required to submit a final report to the office of the VPAA on the outcomes of their grant initiative no later than **June 30** of the year the award was made. Please keep in mind that all funding received **must** be expended by the end of the fiscal year on **May 31**. In addition, recipients will be asked to present their grant initiatives to the TCSPP community in the Spring or Summer following award receipt. Presentation formats can be chosen by the grant recipient, whether this be a 60-minute CE type program, a panel discussion, or short social media presentation to highlight grant recipients' accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Ted Scholz, PhD  
Chief Academic Officer, Vice President of Academic Affairs

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