

# **The Front Porch Project**

## **A PROPOSAL TO BENEFIT PSYCHOLOGY ADMINISTRATORS**

### **GOALS:**

1. To forge a new relationship across psychology advocacy groups;
2. To develop a web-based repository in support of effective administration in psychology; and
3. To extend the work that has been done to promote quality in undergraduate psychology to graduate psychology.

### **KEY PLAYERS:**

#### **Association of Heads of Departments of Psychology (AHDP)**

This is a national organization that addresses the training needs of individuals who assume chair or department head positions primarily from institutions that focus on undergraduate programs and selected Masters degrees. Their primary activity is an annual November conference held in Atlanta that attracts between 30-50 chairs with keynote addresses on selected administrative topics.

Representatives: David Kreiner, President  
Lee Gillis, Past President  
Jen Simonds, President Elect

#### **Florida Council on Unified Psychology Curriculum and Assessment (CUPCA)**

The newest of the organizations, CUPCA convened just two years ago in response to legislative negativity toward the psychology major in the state of Florida. With grant support from STP, the organization mounted a successful statewide summit to help department heads forge survival strategies.

Representatives: Jen Peluso  
Jane Halonen

#### **Society for the Teaching of Psychology (STP)**

This is the longstanding national advocate for all things that enhance learning and teaching in psychology. Affiliated with the APA, STP has a strong track record for both faculty development activities and digitally delivered projects.

Representatives: Ken Keith, President  
Sue Frantz, President Elect  
Janie Wilson, Past President

### **STRUCTURE:**

We propose a triangulation of these groups to pool resources and energies to develop and create support materials for those who take on the role of leader in

psychology programs. Our understanding is that AHDP currently has a website that is undergoing some repair as a resource. However, the annual meeting often features training units that could be captured to support people in various stages of their program leadership.

Similarly, CUPCA provided some training and development on assessment at their statewide summit. They conducted a survey regarding what kinds of training would be of greatest use to chairs. They are considering moving their primary activity from face-to-face meeting to a series of teleconferences or webinars that might be ideal for capture in a long-term repository.

STP is well known to people who love to teach psychology. However, some department heads may not have much of a feeling of or knowledge regarding STP and its resources. To commit to hosting a national website in support of psychology administration might help introduce new people to the value of STP and its rich array of activities in support of teaching and learning. In addition, STP's sturdy financial status and technological expertise would help to develop an accessible, easy-to-navigate website that would be more broadly available.

#### NEXT STEPS:

CUPCA proposes a conference call that would involve leadership from all 3 organizations for a brainstorming session about what such a resource could be and what sequence of activities might produce the desired outcome. The development would require closer connections across the organizations. Potentially even COGDOP might be invited to participate. CUPCA would be willing to coordinate a "GoTo" phone conference to foster some preliminary conversation about this proposal.

#### FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS:

1. How would we recruit and evaluate submissions for the website?
2. What should the formal scope of submissions entail?
3. How would the website be managed?
4. Do other organizations have something comparable?
5. Would there be any funding available from organizations such as Lumina or HELIOS?
6. Could COGDOP play any kind of role?
7. Would APS/APA have an interest?
8. How would this effort intersect with the assessment activities going on in SNAP?