

Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity

I am incredibly honored to have earned the #1 ranking in endorsement from the Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity.

1. ***Evidence of my record of commitment to advancing lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender issues in education and training, in research, in practice, and/or in the public interest.***

I have often sought opportunities to *inform public understanding* of psychological science related to LGBTQ+ issues. For example:

- While serving as the Director of Policy and Communications for the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD; 2003-2009), I ensured strong media coverage for developmental science presented and published (e.g., work of Charlotte Patterson) regarding the development of children raised by lesbian or gay parents.
- While President of Division 37 (Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice; 2015) I led a CODAPAR-funded collaboration with 6 other child/family divisions to develop a science-based web resource center for parents, educators, and health professionals: www.infoaboutkids.org We link to sites that provide evidence-based information on body/mind/emotions/relationships, including sexual orientation. We also post monthly blogs that present scholarly information in lay language for parents; we have featured two in 2021 which address gender identity. We have earned the international HONcode certification for trustworthy information on the internet, have an average of 4,500 visits per month across 254 countries; the majority of visitors in the U.S.
- As a member of the National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine Forum on Children's Wellbeing, and a member of the planning committee for the recent workshop on ensuring students' wellbeing as they return to school, we invited LGBTQ+ youth for a "lived experience" panel.
- I have become active on social media (LinkedIn, Twitter) and routinely share science and policy related to LGBTQ+ mental health, equity and social justice.

I have also had opportunities to advance policies within APA that concern LGBTQ+ children, youth, families, and adults. For example,

- While serving on the APA Committee for Professional Practice and Standards (COPPS; 2008-2010), I reviewed a draft of the revised Professional Practice Guidelines for working with LGBTQ+ persons and supported that effort within COPPS.
- As Chair of the Interdivisional Task Force on Child and Adolescent Mental Health (IDTF), I led the 2019 revision of APA policy, *Child and Adolescent Mental and Behavioral Health Resolution* which included updated science on the health and mental health inequities facing LGBTQ+ youth.
- As APA Council representative for Division 37 (2017-present), and now Chair of the Child, Adolescent, and Family Caucus, I have advocated for approval of APA policies concerning LGBTQ+ children, youth and families.
- As a member of the board of Division 37, I facilitated the division sign-on to the recent Division 44 statement for the *U.S. Department of Education to Protect LGBTQ+ Students at Religious Colleges and Universities*.

Finally, I have had many informal opportunities to promote the wellbeing of LGBTQ+ persons, particularly youth, through leadership roles in training (e.g., directing an internship training program and policy fellowship programs), in publications (e.g., training the workforce for integrated pediatric primary care), and in teaching. Opportunities to support LGBTQ+ youth have also arisen throughout my many years of clinical practice and supervision, primarily involving children and youth who have questioned their gender identity or sexual orientation, as well as with the family, peer, and school issues that accompany such developmental exploration.

2. *My commitment to advance lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues in psychology during my presidential term.*

I have a longstanding commitment to advance LGBTQ+ issues, both in my personal life and in my professional activities, and I embrace cultural humility in doing so. As APA President, I would look to Division 44 for both guidance and support in ensuring a strong and consistent APA voice in advocating for sexual orientation and gender diversity issues in the organization's policy, education, practice, and science activities.

3. *Additional information relevant to my candidacy:*

I am running for APA President because I believe my leadership experience fits the complexity of this moment in APA history, and my passion for equity, health promotion and prevention across the lifespan fits this moment in our country's experience. I was the first in my family to graduate from college, and I have acquired rich training and experience in psychology because of hard work and opportunity. I am an independent practitioner, and have held leadership roles in science, education, public policy, and communicating psychological science to the public. As you will see in the attached flier, I have been active in the governance work of APA for many years. I have a longstanding record – both inside APA and other organizations - of working on interests beyond my own and for fostering collaboration and consensus. I have learned that in every crisis there really *is* opportunity, and we have several before us. *Never in our lifetimes has psychology been poised to make such significant contributions to public wellbeing.* APA needs to both sustain its recent progress and take a longer view. If, together, we can leverage psychological science, we can enable a new generation to live healthier lives, with less discrimination, in a safer world. For more information about my platform and priorities, please see www.maryann4apa.com.