

Leslie Ashburn-Nardo

Candidate Statement

I am honored to have been nominated for the position of Member at Large (MAL) for Science: Programming. I have been an active member of SPSP since joining as a graduate student in 1997, and I have attended all but one of the annual meetings since the first in 2000 in Nashville. Over the last several years, I have taken on more leadership responsibilities in the organization. From 2018-2021, I co-chaired SPSP's Gender Pre-Conference, and since 2020, I have served on the inaugural Applied Psychology Working Group, which was formalized as a Committee in 2021. Given the centrality of diversity science in my work, I am especially proud to have twice been recognized by students as an Invited Mentor at the Diversity and Climate Committee Reception, and several of my undergraduate and graduate mentees have received Diversity Travel Awards. In 2019, I was among an amazing cohort of SPSP members named Fellow. In short, I consider SPSP my professional home.

If elected to this position, I would bring over 19 years of research and leadership experience relevant for science programming. One of the key responsibilities in this role is engagement with the Convention Committee. In addition to co-chairing the SPSP Gender Pre-Conference for three years, I served a three-year term (2010-2012) on the conference program committee for the Midwestern Psychological Association and was the conference program chair 2013-2014. These roles involved not only reviewing conference submissions, but also planning and coordinating sessions and inviting 20+ speakers across the range of psychological disciplines represented at the conference. Another core responsibility of the MAL for Science: Programming position is the SPSP Summer Forum, which brings together scholars from multiple disciplines and with basic and applied backgrounds to collaborate toward solutions to pressing social problems. Indeed, this multidisciplinary, evidence-based approach to societal challenges was the inspiration for my leading the development of a new doctoral program in Applied Social and Organizational Psychology, highlighted in this SPSP news story: <https://spsp.org/news-center/member-newsletters/9-27-18/applied-social-organizational-psychology>. The process of gaining program approval required building partnerships and coalitions within my campus, across state institutions in Indiana, and with community industry and government officials. Lastly, among this position's responsibilities concerns the SPSP Small Conference Grant program, which supports small meetings organized around cutting edge themes. In some ways, organizing a small conference is like editing a special issue of a journal, and I would bring to SPSP my experience co-editing a special issue of *Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion* centered on Black Lives Matter, the journal's most cited issue of 2017. All of these experiences make me well prepared for service on SPSP's Board of Directors as MAL for Science: Programming.