

**Eric L. Lang, Ph.D.**

**Statement of Association with SPSP**

A growing number of SPSP members—students, faculty, and other professionals—are interested in psychological science collaborations and careers in nonacademic settings. Although SPSP has recently developed a number of quality resources in this area, and empaneled a creative and dedicated Working Group, more can be done. I can help.

I have been assisting SPSP in this area, e.g., by leading two Free Form Friday sessions, facilitating a discussion at our annual convention, and participating in SPSP's Applied Psychology Working Group. These experiences have given me a better sense of SPSP members' needs and potential. It also confirmed what I have discovered about most SPSP members: if you worked hard in graduate school, then you likely have valuable skills and great potential to thrive in nonacademic settings!

If elected as the SPSP "Applied" Board Member at Large, I will bring to the role over 30 years' experience working in a variety of nonacademic settings (e.g., a "think tank", business, and the Federal government) designing and managing applied social science to improve the effectiveness and fairness of policies, programs, and products. I've used these experiences to compare, demystify, and coach SPSP members and others on what to expect working in "soft money," commercial, and government environments, how to succeed, what trade-offs and quality of life issues are common, and—given I've been on many hiring committees—what hiring managers most (and least) want to hear in an employment interview.

More important, I will work with SPSP's Applied Psychology Working Group, other SPSP committees, leadership, interested members and appropriate outside organizations to propose how SPSP can increase and improve our (1) text-based informational resources, e.g., online FAQs and Guides, (2) podcast and video resources, e.g., interviews and advice from a variety of applied Psychology practitioners, (3) applied sessions and activities at our annual conventions and "off-season" gatherings, and (4) connections and communications with organizations that could benefit from applied psychological science, e.g., collaborations, consultation, and employment of SPSP members in nonacademic environments.