

National Secretary Candidate Statement

Rickie Irvin



Hi I'm Rickie W. Irvin Jr. and been a part of the Association of Black Psychologist since 2015. I am seeking the position for national secretary within the executive board. Currently I am finishing a masters at Alabama A&M University in Clinical Psychology with the intention of applying to a PhD program. During my time at Alabama A&M University I have been a part of many research within the psychology and counseling. These ranged from examining development issues within minorities attending HBCU to improving first year college students reading and literary skills. Aside from research I current serve as the president of Psychology Graduate Student Association in addition done several projects in conjunction with Huntsville Hospital and various campus organization to expand mental health awareness. Outside of community service involvement I am a teaching assistant within our department and assist individuals both in undergraduate and graduate level.

The reason for seeking to serve on ABPsi board is I desire to enhance the overall understanding of certain mental disorders such as PTSD and autism within underserved communities in efforts to reduce mental health inequalities. In addition, network with cohorts to establish and maintain programs which will raise awareness. However aside from motives for seeking this position I carry knowledge and experiences within areas such as PTSD and those with autism. In addition, bringing familiarity and existing leadership which will asset the ideology and vision Association of Black Psychologist have. Furthermore, bring viewpoints on maintaining funding as well as expanding funding for the organization. This involves presenting applicability for joining an organization as an aspiring younger professional within all psychology programs. Furthermore, demonstrate how effective giving and maintain funding aids not only Association of Black Psychologist but communities' individuals represent and groups researchers work directly with.

Nevertheless, opportunities and challenges facing the Association of Black Psychologists is professional unity. As this unity is seen across all age group whether amongst children, adolescents, and even families. As a result, hinders mental health services to become effected or demonstrate with a familiar. One way to begin change is training the next generation of counselors to uphold unity even through disputes. Additionally, provide webinars professional unity as it relates to mental health and wellness. Lastly, promote and educate those on high professional standards sensitive to the cultural and economic realities of counseling within communities.