

NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE

2025 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

LETTER FROM THE
PRESIDENT

THE EXPERIENCE OF
WORKING IN AMERICA
DURING TIMES OF CHANGE

UPDATE FROM REGION 2

WINNER OF FREE 2026
CONVENTION
REGISTRATION!

CONVENTION AWARDS

“STRANGER MINDS”
AWARDS DINNER

2026 EC ELECTION RESULTS

2026 DAY AT THE CAPITOL

NEW MEMBERS

UPDATE FROM OUR
FEDERAL ADVOCACY
COORDINATOR

LETTER FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GET TO KNOW THE EC



2025 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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APPOINTED POSITIONS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Kathryn Waggoner, PsyD, ABPP

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Public Education Chair:

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Stephanie Howard, PsyD

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Joshua Fulwiler, Ph.D.

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Ryan Liu-Pham, Ph.D.

Historian:

Angela Herzog, Ph.D.

Early Career Psychologist Chair:

Nathan Ross, Ph.D.

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Michael Nadorff, Ph.D.

Federal Advocacy Coordinator:

Danielle Maack, Ph.D.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Amanda Gugliano, PsyD

Following an excellent convention this year that included thought-provoking sessions and discussions about improving mental health services in Mississippi, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the connection between advocacy and the provision of mental health services. How we practice, who can be licensed, and what care Mississippians can receive are shaped by legislation.

In recent months, discussions have intensified around potential legislation for master's level psychological licensure and prescriptive authority for psychologists. These discussions could redefine the practice of psychology in our state. They demand our attention and our participation.

MPA continues to be the voice of psychology in Mississippi, but that voice is strongest when it represents all of us.

Lawmakers rely on professionals like you to explain the realities of psychological training, ethical care, and access to services. Our insight ensures that policy decisions are grounded in evidence, not assumptions.

Advocacy doesn't have to mean standing at a podium at the Capitol or meeting one-on-one with a representative. It can be as simple as sending a well-timed email, attending MPA Capitol Day, or inviting your legislator to visit your practice. Each of these actions helps policymakers see the real-world impact of their decisions and the vital role psychologists play in improving mental health outcomes across our state.

As potential changes in licensure and practice authority unfold, MPA remains committed to ensuring that psychology's voice is heard clearly and credibly. Together, we can shape a future that strengthens our profession and enhances care across our state.

Sincerely,
Amanda L. Gugliano, PsyD
MPA President

The Experience of Working in America during Times of Change

WORK IN AMERICA™ 2025



The American workplace is in a state of flux, driven by advancements in technology, shifting economic landscapes, and evolving government policies, according to APA's 2025 Work in America survey.

This period of rapid change is shaping the psychological experience of workers in the United States in complex ways, presenting both opportunities for growth and significant challenges that demand attention from organizations.

The 2025 Work in America Survey: The Experience of Working in America During Times of Change examines how workers report their employers are navigating these changes—technological, economic, and political—as well as the impact change is having on workers' psychological and emotional well-being.

The Harris Poll conducted the survey online in the United States on behalf of APA from March 26–April 4, 2025, among more than 2,000 working adults.

Americans are experiencing dramatic changes in the workplace

The vast majority of workers reported that their employer experienced change in the past year, and for more than a quarter of these workers, the changes have been significant or transformative. A prevailing sense of optimism exists among many workers regarding these transformations, particularly among workers in upper management and those who feel their productivity has improved in the past year.

However, the survey also uncovered critical disparities and areas of concern. There was a significant perceptual gap between upper management and other workers. While leaders often viewed organizational changes and overall workplace experiences through a largely positive lens, frontline workers and individual contributors were frequently less optimistic. This misalignment underscores the critical need for transparent communication, empathetic leadership, and a commitment to gathering and acting on feedback from a diverse range of employees to ensure that strategic decisions truly reflect the entire workforce's reality.

Further, the survey shines a necessary light on the disproportionate challenges faced by workers with disabilities. Despite broader societal shifts toward inclusivity, this demographic consistently reported higher levels of dissatisfaction and stress, and more experiences of discrimination, alongside a pervasive feeling of being unprepared for future changes. Addressing these systemic issues requires targeted interventions that emphasize fair treatment, meaningful inclusion and accessible support systems.

READ MORE



REGION 2 UPDATE



Liz Woodruff, Ph.D.
Region 2 Representative

As we move into the fall season, I want to take a moment to celebrate the strength of our professional community and invite everyone to stay engaged with MPA. We are incredibly fortunate to belong to an organization that not only advocates for our field but also fosters growth, collaboration, and shared purpose among psychologists across Mississippi. An exciting regional event is in the works — details will be announced soon — and I hope it will be an opportunity to reconnect, recharge, and exchange ideas with one another.

As psychologists, we know that connection and belonging are essential to well-being and longevity. Yet, amid the demands of clinical work, teaching, and research, it's easy to find ourselves working in silos. Let's practice what we so often encourage in our clients by nurturing our own professional relationships. Reach out to a colleague, attend an event, or share a resource — every small step helps build the kind of thriving professional community that sustains both our work and our well-being.

Warmly,

Liz Woodruff, Ph.D.

Regional Representative, Mississippi Psychological Association

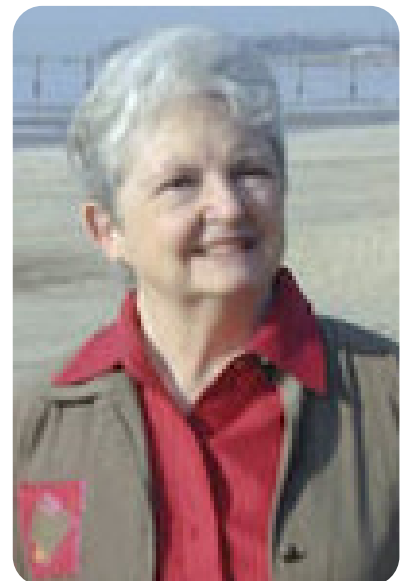
WINNER! WINNER! WINNER!

Congratulations to Dr. Ethel Hetrick!

Dr. Hetrick is the lucky winner of FREE registration for next year's MPA Convention!

This fun giveaway was part of a new initiative led by our Membership Committee Chair, Dr. Lisa Yazdani, to encourage early renewals and auto-renewal sign-ups. All eligible members were entered into our trusty "Wheel of Names", and the wheel landed on Dr. Hetrick!

Thank you, Dr. Hetrick, for your continued dedication to MPA, and thank you to all our members for your ongoing support!



CONGRATS TO OUR 2025 CONVENTION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Distinguished Teaching of Psychology Award - Mitchell Berman, Ph.D.

Outstanding Early Career Psychologist Award - Jennifer Ladner-Graham, Ph.D.

Distinguished Practitioner Award - Josh Fulwiler, Ph.D.

Distinguished Legislative Achievement Award - Rep. Samuel Creekmore, IV

Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award - Cynthia Karlson, Ph.D.

C.D. Gaston Spirit of MPA Award - Natalie Gaughf, Ph.D., ABPP

Past President Award - David Gavel, Ph.D.

2025 MPA Fellows

Jana Martin, Ph.D.

Penni Foster, Ph.D.

Student Data Blitz

1st Place - Andrea Golden, BS, Jackson State University/University of Mississippi Medical Center
Shuying Lin, DPT, PhD, Kristen Qualls, DPT, Alyssa Bradford, DPT, Jacob Daniels, DPT, EdD,
Zikiya Carter, DPT, Caylie Blair, DPT, Cynthia Karlson, PhD

2nd Place - Amara Mason, BS, Mississippi State University
Chelsey Hollinger, Danielle Nadorff, PhD

3rd Place - Sierra Thompson, MS, Mississippi State University
Chase McCullum, EdD

Student Poster Session

1st Place - McKenzie Armstrong, BS, Mississippi State University
Danielle Nadorff, PhD

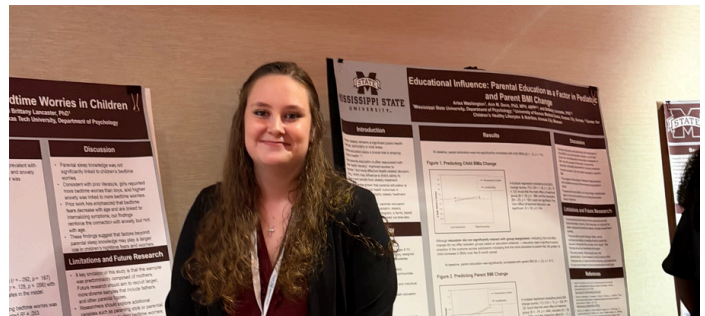
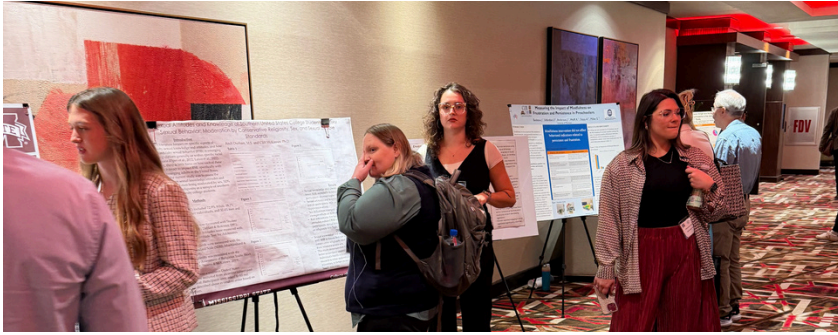
2nd Place - Austin Pierce, MS, Jackson State University
James Broussard, PhD

3rd Place - Kristina Schoenthaler, MA, Mississippi State University
Deemah Alturkait, Arazais Oliveros, PhD

"STRANGER MINDS" AWARDS DINNER



POSTER SESSIONS AND DATA BLITZ



WORKSHOPS



1ST ANNUAL POST-CON GOLF OUTING



2026 EC ELECTION RESULTS



**Nicholas W.
McAfee, Ph.D.
President-Elect**



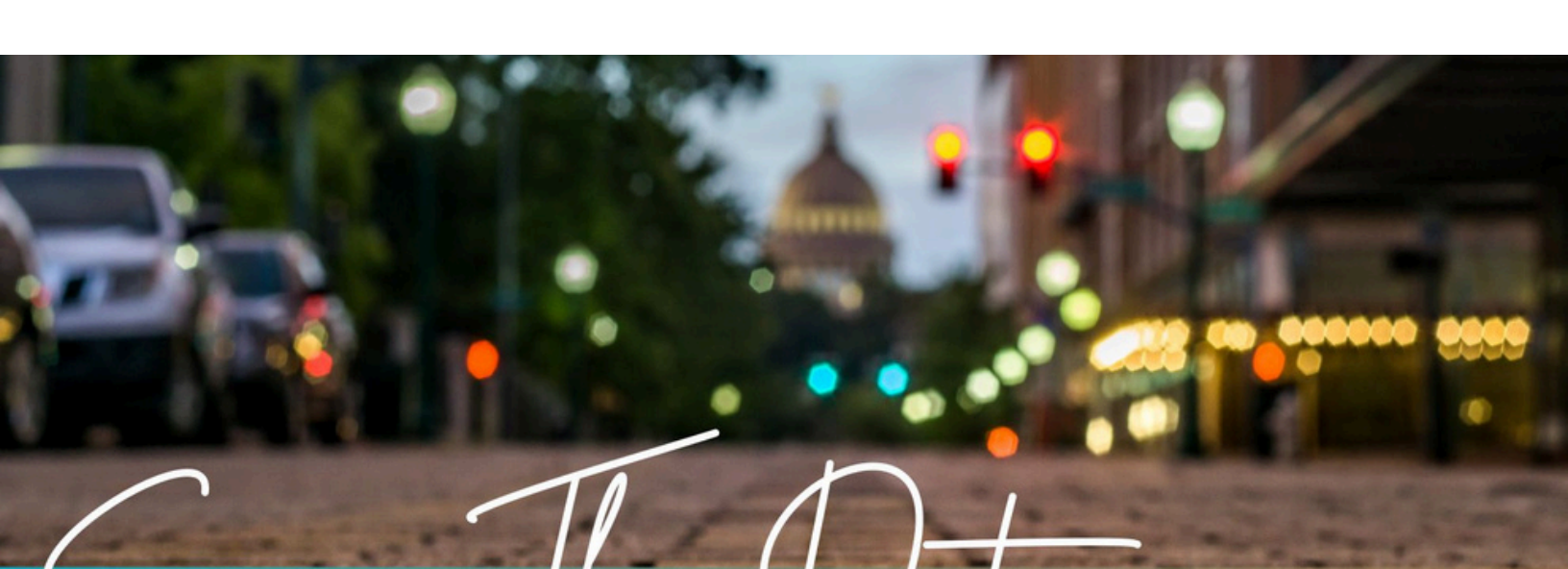
**Sarah Irby, Ph.D.
Communications
Officer**



**Liz Woodruff, Ph.D.
Region 2
Representative**



**Jennifer Ladner-
Graham, Ph.D.
Region 4
Representative**



Save The Date

MPA DAY AT THE CAPITOL
February 12, 2026
8:00 am – 11:30 am



601-608-7677

WWW.MPASSOC.ORG

P.O. BOX 16544
JACKSON MS 39236

NEW MPA MEMBERS!

Rachel Apperson
Student Member

McKenzie Armstrong
Student Member

Karoline Calongne
Student Member

Brianna Cox
Student Member

Kory Engelstad
Student Member

Dquante Evans
Student Member

Elizabeth Farizo
Student Member

Andrea Golden
Student Member

Yasmine Aniyila Griffin
Student Member

Christopher Guadalupe
Student Member

Chelsey Hollinger
Student Member

Kayleigh Latimer
Student Member

Steven Neil Marsh, Ph.D.
Clinical Member

Meagan Medley, Ph.D.
Clinical Member

**Christopher Michael
Perez, Ph.D.**
Clinical Member

Sharonda Porter
Student Member

Myah Revis
Student Member

August Slater
Student Member

Stephanie Smith, Ph.D.
Academic Member

Summer Steely
Student Member

Sierra Thompson
Student Member

Jenesis Vann
Student Member

Carmen Wilkinson
Student Member

Sarah R. Wilson
Student Member



Danielle Maack, Ph.D.

FEDERAL ADVOCACY COORDINATOR

Greetings everyone and Happy Fall! Even with the government shut down, APA advocacy is still hard at work. Here is a summary of the most recent updates (as of last week) from the advocacy office.

The great government pause continues! Lawmakers are still deciding whether to reopen the government with a quick “keep-the-lights-on” bill or a bigger package that tackles issues like ACA subsidies and Medicaid cuts.

What’s on hold?

- Research and behavioral health grant reviews
- Staffing for many federal programs

What’s still running?

- Medicare and Medicaid (though expect slower service due to furloughs)

Meanwhile, APA’s advocacy office is keeping busy urging lawmakers for:

- A speedy reopening of the government
- Restarting peer review and funding cycles for research
- Support for grad students and early-career psychologists
- Restoration of Medicare telehealth rules and removal of the in-person visit requirement, which went back into effect on October 1st
- APA Advocacy rolled out the brand-new Medicaid Advocacy Toolkit, designed to help states protect and expand access to psychological services through Medicaid

Why it matters:

- Mental health services under Medicaid are “optional” — and often the first to face cuts
- With federal funding changes looming, state advocacy is critical
- The Department of Education just started its negotiated rulemaking marathon for the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (yep, that’s the official name!).

The hot topic? Defining what counts as a “professional degree” for new student loan limits. APA is making the case loud and clear: health service psychology belongs on that list ([APA submitted comments](#))!

Next round of talks: early November

Final rule expected by Spring 2026

- Supreme Court Watch: Chiles v. Salazar

The Supreme Court heard arguments this week in a closely watched case about Colorado’s ban on conversion therapy for minors. The big question: Is talk therapy protected “speech” under the First Amendment, or professional conduct that states can regulate?

The counselor challenging the law says the ban censors her faith-based conversations with clients. Colorado argues it's simply protecting youth from a discredited and harmful practice, backed by strong clinical evidence.

Justices wrestled with how a ruling could affect state licensing boards and professional standards —especially if words themselves are treated as protected speech. It's a complex case with big implications for mental health regulation nationwide.

APA Services submitted [an Amicus Brief](#) in this case and posted on the topic on [social media](#). Please consult this [APA factsheet](#) for more information on the harms of conversion therapy, as well as this [Axios article](#) featuring APA's Head of Practice Lynn Buffka.

Decision expected by June 2026

If you have any questions about these topics, please let me know, and I can try to help get answers and/or give you the APA contact for the specific issue. Please be paying attention for any "APA Action Alerts" as our voices are important to be heard by our elected officials. Thank you to all who have been responding and contacting your congresspeople! It may not seem like it at times, but if we keep making our voices heard, changes will be made!

Dani
djmaack@deltaautumn.com

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we close out another remarkable year, we want to celebrate all that the Mississippi Psychological Association has accomplished. Membership continues to grow, engagement is stronger than ever, and it is inspiring to see the dedication and passion of everyone involved in advancing the association's work.

This year we enjoyed a great convention, a successful legislative session, and meaningful engagement across the organization. The Ten One team thanks the current board for their hard work and dedication, and we look forward to working with the 2026 board, which will bring many new faces and fresh ideas. We also thank you for trusting us to serve the association and look forward to supporting even more growth and success together in 2026.

We encourage all members to stay engaged, participate in events, and bring a colleague to experience the great work being done through the association. Together, we are making a meaningful impact across Mississippi.

Warm regards,
LaDarion Ammons
Executive Director



LaDarion Ammons

GET TO KNOW 2026 EC MEMBERS!



Nicholas W. McAfee, Ph.D.
President Elect

1. What inspired you to join this board? **Having been a member of MPA Legislative Committee for the past two years, I've seen the important work that goes on behind the scenes to protect and advocate for the practice of psychology in Mississippi.**
2. What's one thing you hope to help accomplish this year? **In the next year I hope to build relationships across MPA Leadership and Membership to help inform my work with the executive council.**
3. If our board had a theme song, what would it be? **I really can't answer this question as I haven't been part of the board yet!**
4. What's one thing you're surprisingly good at that has nothing to do with your job? **In terms of talent outside of work, I'd say that i know my way around a grill or smoker! Whether it's burgers or brisket, I love to cook for friends and family.**



Jennifer Ladner-Graham, Ph.D.
Region 4 Representative

1. What inspired you to join this board? **Mississippi has always been my home. I was part of MPA as a student and have always known that I wanted to continue to be a part of MPA in various ways. Being able to serve on the EC is a privilege.**
2. What's one thing you hope to help accomplish this year? **I hope to help grow our membership and expand the diversity within our MPA community. I also aspire to get our current members more involved to help build a more engaged and supportive community.**
3. If our board had a theme song, what would it be? **"With a Little Help from My Friends" by The Beatles**
4. What's one thing you're surprisingly good at that has nothing to do with your job? **Planning a vacation at the last minute on an unreasonable time schedule.**



JOIN MPA FOR 2026 AND GET THE REST OF 2025 FREE!

Plus a member discount at the 2025 convention!

Our Service:

- ✓ Gain access to the MPA Listserv
- ✓ Enjoy members-only pricing at all MPA Events
- ✓ Get referrals from our online member database
- ✓ Grow your professional network

Contact Us:

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NOW HIRING

RN/LPN



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Tutwiler, MS 38963



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ATTENTION PSYCHOLOGISTS

PLEASE SEARCH YOUR PAPER FILES

The MPA History & Archives Committee seeks copies of past years' MPA Convention Programs and MPA Newsletters.

While electronic files are also welcomed, we seek to reconstruct the history of the field of psychology in Mississippi, much which may not have been digitally recorded at the time.
ALL MATERIALS YOU LOCATE WILL BE UTILIZED AND IMMENSELY APPRECIATED.

Please contact Angela Herzog at aohertzog56@gmail.com or 601-942-2865 so that I can arrange to pick up or pay for shipping.