

Jean Lau Chin, EdD, ABPP

Biographical Statement

My professional journey has been a life of contrasts, analogous to that of Monkey King, a character in the 15th century Chinese epic Journey to the West. In his legendary pilgrimage, Monkey endured 81 tests to discern truth and evil. Although he could travel thousands of miles in one leap, he had to travel 16 years on foot before he could reach enlightenment.

Coming from a working-class, Chinese American immigrant family, I too made my journey to the West. McCarthyism along with the Civil Rights, Women's and Peace Movements in the '60s helped to shape me and transform my view of the world. Living in a bicultural Asian American world, confronting stereotypes about Asian women, I learned to bridge health and mental health, academia and community, practice and science, and clinical and school psychology. My own journey of contrasts has led me to innovate and advocate for constructive and generative change.

I am the first Asian American to be licensed as a psychologist in Massachusetts. I bring to APA a breadth of experience as a clinician, academic, researcher, educator, administrator, and policymaker. My leadership experience as Academic Dean at both Adelphi University and Alliant International University, President of my clinical/consulting business, Regional Director of a managed care plan, Executive Director of South Cove Community Health Center, and Director of Thom Mental Health Clinic prepares me for the complexity needed as your APA president. This is augmented by my knowledge of APA, having served as Past Chair of Council Leadership Team, a member of APA Board of Directors, Past President of three APA divisions (Women, Ethnic Minorities, International), and a member of several APA boards / committees (CEMA, BAPPI, CIRP, COPPS). External but deeply relevant to APA, I bring policy and advocacy experience having served in many federal advisory committees within SAMHSA, NIH and NIMH for service and research.

Throughout my professional journey, I have worked to build bridges across different perspectives, serving currently as President of the International Council of Psychologists and as a Fulbright Distinguished Chair to the University of Sydney, Australia. As a practitioner, educator, and administrator, I also deeply respect and

engage in research, including leadership, clinical training, diversity, and women's issues, which has culminated in multiple publications and presentations, including 15 books.

Like the Monkey King, my experiences have strengthened my ability to look at things from the outside while seeking solutions on the inside, trying to resolve along the way seemingly intractable problems through win-win strategies. Always, I advocate to meet unmet needs, serve the underserved, and champion social justice, cultural competence, and inclusivity. I appreciate the intersectionality of race, culture, class, and gender, but try always to find common ground within our personal and professional diversity. I listen hard to all views and values, and direct our differences toward shared goals. We are all interconnected in today's global and diverse society, and if I become your APA president, I will do all I can to help APA become a leading force – locally and globally – to find common means toward our shared ends.