

## Psychology Internship Program



**VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System**  
Mental Health Service (116)  
VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System  
975 Kirman Avenue  
Reno, NV 89502  
(775) 786-7200  
<http://www.reno.va.gov/>

**MATCH Number Program Code: 143911**  
**Applications Due: November 14, 2016**

### **Accreditation Status**

The pre-doctoral internship at the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. Our most recent APA accreditation site visit was in August of 2009 and the program was fully re-accredited for 7 years. Our next site visit will be in the Fall of 2016.

#### **The contact information for the APA Commission on Accreditation is:**

**Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation**  
**American Psychological Association**  
750 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002-4242  
202-336-5979  
TDD/TTY: (202) 336-6123  
Fax: (202) 336-5978  
[apaaccred@apa.org](mailto:apaaccred@apa.org)

### **Application & Selection Procedures**

#### **OUR APPIC INTERNSHIP MATCHING PROGRAM CODE# IS 143911.**

Our program is utilizing the APPIC Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI) to enable you to complete one application for all sites that are participating in the APPIC uniform application process. The AAPI is available through the APPIC web site. Please go to the APPIC web site at [www.appic.org](http://www.appic.org) for more information about accessing and completing the online application.

Please be aware that the "Academic Program's Verification of Internship Eligibility and Readiness" form will be submitted ELECTRONICALLY to the internship site by your graduate training director. Instructions regarding this part of the application process are contained in the online AAPI.

Completed applications are initially reviewed by the Training Director. Enrollment in an APA approved graduate program, completion of the dissertation or doctoral project proposal, and United States citizenship are all required for entry into our internship program. After initial review by the Training Director, applications that are still under consideration are reviewed by two staff psychologists and then ranked according to the applicants' number of practicum hours, assessment experience, variety of practicum placements, and letters of recommendation. Applicants' responses to essay questions on the AAPI are used to gauge the "goodness of fit" between the student and our training site. We seek applicants who have a strong academic foundation from their university program, and who have mastered basic skills in standard assessment and intervention techniques from their practicum experiences. The majority of our patients are adults who present with combined medical and psychiatric symptoms and we prefer applicants who demonstrate an interest in this population through their past exposure to similar training experiences and articulation of their future career goals.

As part of the application process we hold interviews by invitation only. Personal interviews are not required, but we recommend that you come for an interview if you are invited. If you cannot arrange to come in person, we will attempt to schedule a telephone interview.

We value diverse experiences and backgrounds as the building blocks of a rich training environment. As such, the program emphasizes respect for trainees, patients, and staff members representing all forms of diversity, including (but not limited to) ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, Veteran status, and political affiliation. Interns are entitled to equal treatment in selection decisions and freedom from harassment or unfair treatment. If an intern feels that any form of discrimination is occurring, he/she is encouraged to discuss this with the Training Director and/or follow the grievance processes which are outlined in our program Handbook and/or VA Equal Employment Opportunity policies. The program seeks to obtain a diverse intern class while selecting the most qualified candidates. Individuals from diverse backgrounds are particularly encouraged to apply. The VA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and the training program follows institutional guidelines in this regard.

Our agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. If you need reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify Dr. Williams by telephone or email. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants who are invited for an interview will be notified by December 9, 2016 via e-mail. We will also contact applicants via e-mail who are not being invited for interviews by December 9, 2016. If you do not have an e-mail address, you will need to phone Dr. Williams (Internship Director) to inquire into your status. Dr. Williams' phone is 775-786-7200, x6531.

If you are invited for an interview, we will ask that you make a firm commitment to one of the dates listed below or to make arrangements for a pre-scheduled telephone interview. Failure to either attend a scheduled interview date or take part in a scheduled telephone interview will result in your application being withdrawn from further consideration. If you are invited for an interview, plan on being at the medical center from 8:00 AM until approximately 4:00 PM on the day of your visit. You will be joining other applicants in a group format during the morning hours in meetings with the Training Director and current Psychology Interns, and taking a tour of the medical center. During the afternoon, you will be meeting with two staff psychologists for individual interviews. Responses to interview questions are evaluated according to several factors, including your responses to questions about difficult situations you've handled in the past, questions about difficult diagnostic dilemmas and treatment challenges you've faced in the past, and how well our site meets your training needs and interests. We will also ask you to read a case description so that you can respond to structured questions about differential diagnosis, tests you might consider using to assist with diagnosis, and possible treatment strategies. **IF YOU ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THIS PROCESS, PLEASE DO NOT APPLY TO OUR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.**

#### **INTERVIEW DATES FOR 2017-2018 TRAINING YEAR:**

- Wednesday, January 11, 2017
- Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Our program is participating in the APPIC Computer Match Program so you will need to obtain an Applicant Agreement Package from National Matching Services, Inc in order to register for the Match. You can download the Applicant Agreement form at [www.natmatch.com/psychint](http://www.natmatch.com/psychint). If you do not register, you will not be eligible to match with any APPIC programs. We recommend that you carefully review the official APPIC Match Policies and the Internship Matching Program Schedule of Dates, which are also available at [www.appic.org](http://www.appic.org).

#### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL VA PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS:**

1. **U.S. citizenship.** VA is unable to consider applications from anyone who is not currently a U.S. citizen. Verification of citizenship is required following selection. All interns and fellows must complete a Certification of Citizenship in the United States prior to beginning VA training.
2. **A male applicant born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the draft by age 26 to be eligible for any US government employment, including selection as a paid VA trainee.** Male applicants must sign a pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration before they can be processed into a training program. Exceptions can be granted only by the US Office of Personnel Management; exceptions are very rarely granted.
3. **Interns and Fellows are subject to fingerprinting and background checks. Match result and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens.** Details about background checks can be found at: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/10450.html>.
4. **VA conducts drug screening exams on randomly selected personnel as well as new employees.** Interns and Fellows are not required to be tested prior to beginning work, but once on staff they are subject to random selection for testing as are other employees.
5. To comply with federal and VA rules and provide interns with liability protection, a current and valid Affiliation Agreement between VA and the sponsoring doctoral program must be on file before the intern can be appointed. Most APA-approved doctoral programs already have an agreement on file. More information is available at <http://www.va.gov/oa/agreements.asp> (see section on psychology internships).

If you have questions regarding APPIC procedures, their telephone number is (202) 347-0022. The telephone number for the American Psychological Association is (202) 336-5979. The number for National Matching Services is (416) 977-3431.

**For your application to be complete we must receive the following materials by November 14, 2016:**

- Online APPIC Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI).
- Your Curriculum Vitae – to be submitted as part of online AAPI
- Three letters of recommendation – to be submitted as part of online AAPI
- Graduate school transcripts – to be submitted as part of online AAPI
- Your Academic Program Verification of Internship Eligibility and Readiness form – to be submitted by your Training Director as part of the online AAPI

**Any written inquiries can be submitted to:**

**Valerie Williams, PhD**  
Mental Health Service (116)  
VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System  
975 Kirman Avenue  
Reno, NV 89502  
(775) 786-7200, x6531

Otherwise, all materials will be submitted electronically, as part of the online AAPI. **Please read all relevant instructions carefully to assure that transcripts, letters of recommendation and the Academic Program Verification of Internship Eligibility and Readiness forms are submitted in a timely manner. Applications that are not completed by 4:00 PST on November 14, 2016 will not be considered, even if portions of the application have been submitted prior to that date and time.**

As a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Predoctoral Internship Centers (APPIC), our program follows all APPIC policies regarding the intern selection process. This internship site strictly abides by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept, or use any ranking related information from any applicant. You are encouraged to read or download the complete text of their regulations governing program membership and the match process from APPIC's Website. The Federal Government is an Equal Opportunity employer.

## **Psychology Setting**

Psychologists are part of the Mental Health Service at our medical center. We maintain close interdisciplinary relationships with psychiatrists, psychiatric nursing, social work, and substance abuse specialists in our department. We currently have 20 psychologists on site in Reno, as well as one psychologist located offsite at our community based outpatient clinic in Auburn, CA. These psychologists represent a variety of academic backgrounds, clinical interests, and areas of expertise. Several of our psychologists are former interns.

Our psychologists serve a wide variety of administrative and clinical roles within our department, and throughout the medical center. Psychologists provide services through the Mental Health Clinic, Behavioral Medicine and Neuropsychology programs, the Addictive Disorders Treatment Program (ADTP), the PTSD Clinical Team (PCT), Integrated Behavioral Health Care (IBHC), and our Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) program. We also serve important leadership roles in the medical center, such as membership on committees and task forces outside of Mental Health, such as the Palliative Care team, Chronic Pain Management Panel, Ethics Committee, and Wellness programs. Psychologists are also employed at the regional level (Veterans Service Network 21) in program development and evaluation positions. Several psychologists hold academic appointments at the University of Nevada School of Medicine and/or the Psychology Department at University of NV.

Our facility also serves as a training site for Residents in Psychiatry, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Optometry, Internal Medicine, and Surgery, as well as Nursing students and Social Work Interns. We offer practicum opportunities students from APA accredited PhD and PsyD programs.

During the training year, Psychology Interns provide consultation and treatment to several other health care service departments throughout the medical center, including the inpatient Medical, Surgical, ICU, Psychiatry, and Community Living Center Units, the Primary Care clinics, and the Emergency Department.

## **Training Model and Program Philosophy**

The mental health staff members at the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System are committed to the training of professional psychologists consistent with a scholar-practitioner training model. Within a supportive and collegial atmosphere, we seek to facilitate development of a reflective approach to practice that integrates empirical knowledge and delivery of clinical services. Interns are viewed as making the transition from the student role to the professional colleague role over the course of the training year, honing the clinical skills ultimately required for independent practice. Opportunities are offered for continued training in areas of practice that interns may already be familiar with, as well as introduction to unfamiliar treatment orientations and clinical challenges.

At the start of the training year, interns undergo several days of orientation to our department and to the medical center. They visit potential rotation sites and potential supervisors to compose a training experience that best fits their interests and needs. The Training Director acts as an advocate for interns and other Psychology trainees at the facility. The Director meets regularly with interns to respond to their concerns.

Interns receive informal feedback from supervisors throughout the year in addition to formal evaluations at mid-rotation and at the end of each rotation. Evaluations emphasize the intern's strengths and identify areas in need of improvement. In turn, interns evaluate their supervisors and the supervision experience. Evaluations are mutually shared and discussed between intern and supervisor in an atmosphere that fosters personal and professional development. Written summaries of these evaluations are furnished to the intern and graduate institution at mid-year and at the end of the training year. It is expected that interns will differ in the extent to which they require training in the expected competencies. It is further expected that there may be instances where an intern's behaviors, attitudes, or other characteristics impact the learning process, relationships with others, and/or patient care. These issues are typically addressed in supervision, but if skill deficits are noted in any of these areas, a formal remediation plan

may be established to address the deficits. If skill deficits cannot be remediated, provisional completion of the internship and/or termination from the internship will be considered.

### Program Goals & Objectives

**Our program has articulated the following goals and related competencies:**

1. Ability to integrate research findings with the clinical problem-solving process by seeking out relevant scientific knowledge, application of empirically supported treatments, and demonstration of awareness of the literature associated with commonly utilized psychological assessment instruments.
2. Development of skills in conducting interviews and in administering, scoring, and interpreting standardized psychological instruments; integrating interview and test data into useful written reports and treatment plans; and providing appropriate feedback to patients and their families.
3. Development of independent, entry-level psychotherapy and intervention skills, including efficient and timely documentation of services provided, effective management of at-risk patients and/or patients who are in crisis, and articulation of clinical case conceptualization and treatment goals.
4. Refinement of professional identity and ability to work successfully on interdisciplinary teams, as evidenced by appropriate professional behavior in interactions with patients and other staff members, maintenance of professional demeanor in times of personal stress, willingness to seek out extra supervision or consultation when faced with ethical and professional dilemmas, and evidence of the ability to effectively utilize time management skills in completing administrative duties.
5. Increased awareness of ethical/legal standards and enhanced sensitivity to cultural and individual diversity issues through demonstration of familiarity with relevant laws and APA Ethics Code and active attention to and discussion of the cultural and individual diversity concerns of patients and colleagues.

### **Program Structure**

Our internship offers full-time, generalist training in the practice of professional psychology within a multidisciplinary Veterans Affairs medical center. We accept 4 interns per year. Our program is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association, and complies with all standards and regulations of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC), as well as APPIC Match Policies and Procedures. The training year begins on August 1, 2017 and ends on July 31, 2018. The deadline for receipt of applications is November 14, 2016. The anticipated federal stipend is \$23,974.

**Applicants must be students in an APA-accredited or provisionally-accredited program in clinical or counseling psychology and must be United States citizens in order to be employed at a VA healthcare facility. We accept students from both PsyD and PhD programs. All new employees are subject to background checks.**

The information provided on this website is designed to provide a general description of our program and medical center setting. We look forward to answering any specific questions you might have by e-mail or telephone. The program Training Director is Valerie Williams, PhD and her contact information is as follows: [valerie.williams@va.gov](mailto:valerie.williams@va.gov). (775) 786-7200, ext 6531.

The internship training year includes four 3-month long rotations in the practice of clinical psychology, which are described below. Required and optional rotations are described below. Our psychologists take turns providing weekly group supervision to interns as well. We utilize an apprenticeship model of training, where the intern begins each rotation by observing their supervisor, then gradually transitions into more independent functioning. Our program emphasizes training in the practice of clinical psychology so research activities are not a required component of the program. Administrative and program evaluation experiences may be possible through optional rotations. Since our program is small, all interns have the opportunity to take part in optional rotations of their choosing. The program also includes weekly didactic seminars, covering topics such as psychological assessment, individual and cultural diversity, law and ethics, and empirically supported treatments.

We encourage interns to adhere to a 40 hour work week, although fluctuations in workload may sometimes require limited overtime work or use of free time to pursue training related readings. Approximately 32 hours of the 40 hour work week are devoted to patient contact and related administrative duties, with the remaining 8 hours reserved for seminars, supervision meetings, and other miscellaneous duties. Interns receive at least 2 hours of individual supervision and 2 hours of group supervision per week. Some supervisors utilize audiotapes to enhance the provision of individual supervision. There are opportunities to co-lead psychotherapy treatment groups with supervisors and to observe the administration of psychological tests prior to transitioning into independent test administration.

Interns and supervisors are encouraged to provide performance-related feedback to one another throughout their rotations. Written evaluations are completed by both supervisors and interns half way through each rotation (with the exception of the last rotation of the year), as well as at the end of each rotation and are structured to reflect our training goals and objectives. Interns may have the opportunity to provide mentoring and supervision to psychology and/or social work trainees.

## ***Training Experiences & Rotations***

### **There are 2 required rotations:**

**MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC (Half-time or Full-time):** During this rotation, the intern will conduct intakes, evaluations, and psychotherapy with patients who are referred to the Mental Health Clinic with a variety of presenting complaints. The rotation may also include assessment and treatment of patients who are enrolled in the Continuing Care Program (CCP), which is a program designed for seriously mentally ill patients. The intern will be required to attend program team meetings and other team meetings that are relevant to patient care activities. Interns will be responsible for conducting both individual and group psychotherapy with outpatients and will gain exposure to selected psychotherapy groups on the Inpatient Psychiatry unit.

**BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE CONSULTATION & LIAISON (Full-time):** During this rotation, the intern will have the opportunity to work with the Behavioral Medicine/Consultation & Liaison Service. The psychologists on this team respond to consultation requests from the inpatient Medicine, Surgery, ICU, and Community Living Center units. After an initial period of shadowing the supervising psychologists, the intern will conduct brief neuropsychological screening evaluations, utilize interview and questionnaire data to evaluate psychiatric symptoms, and generate reports describing their findings to assist physicians, nurses, and other treatment team members in planning for patient discharge and ongoing outpatient care. Interns will also participate in daily rounds where team members discuss current patient status and there will be ample opportunity to interface with attending physicians and resident physicians from the medicine, surgery, geriatrics, and palliative/hospice teams. Interns will also interface with nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and discharge planners. The intern will also spend one day each week working with a social worker in the ER, evaluating Veterans who present with a variety of psychiatric concerns, including those with suicidal/homicidal ideation and other psychiatric crises. Interns are also encouraged to take part in out-patient treatment modalities that relate to the practice of Behavioral Medicine, e.g., pain management group, cancer support group, CBT for insomnia, etc.

**OPTIONAL ROTATIONS:** Interns have the opportunity to complete four half-time optional rotations or to combine their time into two full-time optional rotations. Some optional rotations are offered at agencies in the community. For community rotations, VA regulations limit the intern to only one half-time assignment (approximately 16 hours per week).

### **Optional rotations within the VA include:**

- Addictive Disorders Treatment Program (ADTP)
- Integrated Behavioral Health Care (IBHC)
- PTSD Clinical Team (PCT)
- Geropsychology and Home Based Primary Care
- Neuropsychology
- Compensation and Pension evaluations for service-connected disability
- Mental Health Continuing Care program (for Veterans with chronic and serious psychiatric diagnoses)

### **Optional rotations outside the VA include:**

- State of Nevada Children's Behavioral Services
- State of Nevada Forensic Facility (Lake's Crossing)

**LONG-TERM EXPERIENCE:** Psychology interns are encouraged to participate in one year long or two six-month long supervision experiences. Interns will be provided with a list of available supervisors and their specialty areas (e.g., PTSD, Addictions, DBT, Neuropsychology, Geropsychology, ACT, Eating Disorders, Motivational Interviewing, Pain Management, Smoking Cessation, MOVE, Compensation and Pension exams, SMI, Personality Assessment, etc.). Interns will be allowed to choose a supervisor based on availability, interest, gaps in training, or enhancement of current skills.

### **Requirements for Completion**

Our competency domains were described in an earlier section. Competencies are rated across 4 levels: Level 1 - Needs remedial work; Level 2 - Entry Level/intensive supervision needed; Level 3 – Progressing well with some supervision needed; Level 4 – Little or no supervision required and competency has been developed. The intern is expected to maintain performance that is at Level 2 or greater during all rotations and expected to achieve Level 3 competency, at a minimum, for all required skill domains, by the end of the training year. Ratings of Level 1 at any point during the training year will lead to the establishment of a written remedial training plan, to be signed by the Training Director, the Intern, and other staff psychologists who are involved in the intern's ongoing supervision. Ratings lower than Level 3 by the end of the third training rotation may result in appropriate discussions between the Training Director, the Intern, and the rating psychologist, with consideration of a written remedial training plan. Ratings of less than Level 3 at the end of the training year, for any domain, could result in either requirements for continued internship training or documentation of a "provisional" recommendation by the Training Director when the Intern later seeks licensure and/or employment.

Our Internship Handbook includes guidelines for Interns to seek redress when they believe they are not being evaluated fairly, or if they believe they have been the target of discrimination or other unfair treatment by supervisors or other staff.

### **Facility and Training Resources**

Each intern is provided with office space equipped with a personal computer. All personal computers are connected to the VA Computerized Patient Recording System (CPRS), the VA Vista system, e-mail, internet, and VA intranet. Telephones with private voicemail are also provided. Interns will be issued audio cassette recorders at the beginning of the training year, to use for the purpose of recording

psychotherapy sessions. Textbooks on the topics of cultural and individual diversity, law and ethics, and psychopharmacology are also distributed to interns at the beginning of the training year, to be returned upon the completion of the internship program. The Mental Health service employs several full-time Medical Service Assistants (MSAs) who provide clerical and administrative support, but professional staff (including interns) are expected to enter their own written notes into CPRS (e.g., typing services are not provided by our clerical staff). Personal computers include programs such as Word, Excel, Access, and Power Point. The Mental Health Service maintains a "shared drive" where important forms and other information are archived and updated as needed. Psychology Interns will also be issued digital pagers to facilitate rapid communication with other staff members and efficient patient care throughout the work day.

### ***Administrative Policies and Procedures***

In addition to earned Annual Leave and Sick Leave, each Intern will be granted up to 5 days of Authorized Absence to attend professional conferences, prepare or defend their dissertation, and/or attend employment interviews. Authorized Absence is granted at the discretion of the Psychology Training Director.

Our privacy policy is clear: We will not collect personal information about you when you visit our website. We do not require self-disclosure of sensitive personal information during our interviews.

### ***Training Staff***

Our Psychology Staff members are described below, in alphabetical order:

**Jordan Bonow, Ph.D.**, University of Nevada, Reno, 2013; Staff Psychologist in both the Mental Health Clinic and the Integrated Behavioral Health Care Program co-located within Primary Care. Professional interests include primary care integration, behavioral health, behavior therapies including third wave therapies, and suicide risk assessment and prevention. Personal interests include home improvement projects, exercising, watching movies, and anything involving my kids.

**Adam Bradford, Psy.D.**, Midwestern University, Glendale, AZ, 2013; Staff Psychologist in the PTSD Clinical Team. Professional interests include PTSD coordination of care, Grief and Loss, TBI/PTSD assessment/diagnostic clarification, Fitness/alternative therapies for PTSD symptom reduction, Virtual Reality Exposure therapy. Personal interests include skiing, boating, kayaking, hiking, camping, weight lifting, gigging (piano/vocal performance/jazz), DJing, writing, travel.

**Kelly Cramond, Ph.D.**, Brigham Young University, 2010. Staff Psychologist in Behavioral Medicine Program. Professional interests include neuropsychology, brain injury assessment, cognitive rehabilitation, and assessment and management of dementia. Personal interests include snowboarding and backpacking.

**James A. D'Andrea, Ph.D., ABPP**, Saint Louis University, 1994, Staff Psychologist in the Community Living Center. Professional interests include CBT for dementia caregivers, managing challenging behaviors in long-term care settings, ethnogeriatrics, capacity evaluations in cognitively impaired older adults, surrogate decision making under conditions of uncertainty, and aging with a disability. Personal interests include cross country glider flying in the Sierras, skiing, and I'm a Francophile

**Eric Diddy, Ph.D.**, Alliant International University-CSPP at Fresno, 2013. Staff Psychologist, Behavioral Medicine program and Compensation and Pension services. Trained and certified in Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD. Professional interests include PTSD, substance use disorders, behavioral health, and the integration of spirituality into the therapeutic process. Personal interests include skiing, mountain biking, kayaking, and fitness, and I'm a certified foody.

**Craig Edwards, Ph.D.**, Rosemead School of Psychology, La Mirada, CA, 2006; Compensation and Pension Psychologist in Behavioral Medicine Program. Professional interests include military psychology, spiritual issues, depression, personality disorders, and performance evaluations. Personal interests include hiking, photography, classic movies, and anything related to food.

**Kris Harris, Ph.D.**, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2013, Mental Health Clinic. Professional interests include anxiety, anger, eating disorders/body image, personality disorders, identity concerns, relationship distress, family of origin concerns, and addictive disorders/co-dependence. Personal interests include playing music, reading, hiking, my dog, video games, and photography.

**Deborah Henderson, Ph.D.**, University of Nevada at Reno, 2006; Staff Psychologist in the Integrated Behavioral Health Care Program co-located within Primary Care. Professional interests include behavioral health/primary care integration, behavior therapies, ACT, anxiety disorders, weight management, managing chronic illness. Personal interests include spending time with my dogs, my friends, my family, my garden, nice hikes, nice beaches, and a nice glass of wine.

**John H. Krogh, Ph.D.**, Idaho State University, 2007. PTSD Clinical Team. Trained and certified in Prolonged Exposure Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, and Cognitive-Behavior Therapy for Insomnia. Professional interests include cognitive-behavioral treatments, PTSD, anxiety disorders, motivational interviewing, stress management, and crisis intervention. Involved in local, state, and federal police training. Personal interests include time in the mountains, snowboarding, biking, hiking, abseiling, wood shaping, and fossils.

**Katherine McKenzie, Psy.D.**, PGSP-Stanford PsyD Consortium, 2013. Staff Psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic; transferring to PTSD Clinical Team in Fall 2015. Professional interests include cognitive-behavioral therapies with special training emphasis in David Burns-style TEAM therapy, sleep, chronic pain management, and motivation for psychotherapy engagement. Personal interests include photography, gardening, pop-culture blogs, podcasts, good television, and enjoying my toddler's company.

**Elizabeth Mosco, Ph.D.**, University of Nevada at Reno, 2007; Staff Psychologist in the Home Based Primary Care Program. Professional interests include: geropsychology, behavior therapies, behavioral health/primary care integration, couples and family therapy, DBT, and personality disorders. Personal interests include: spending time outside and moving meditation.

**Yelena Oren, Ph.D.**, University of Nevada, Reno, 2015; Staff Psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic. Professional interests include behavior therapies including third wave therapies, anxiety disorders, chronic illness, chronic pain, stress management, sleep, trauma, integrated behavioral health, cultural influences on treatment, psychotherapy process. Personal interests include spending time with my family, reading, hiking, cooking, baking, and traveling.

**Michele Steever, Ph.D.**, University of Nevada at Reno, 2009. Staff psychologist in the Continuing Care Program within Mental Health Clinic. Professional interests include serious mental illness, autism spectrum disorders, addictions, DBT, FAP, and couples & family therapy. Personal interests include knitting, watching movies, traveling, and playing with my son.

**Valerie L. Williams, Ph.D.**, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1992, Director of Psychology Training and Staff Psychologist in Behavioral Medicine Program. Professional interests include chronic illness, neuropsychology, medical and health psychology, assessment and management of dementia. Personal interests include horseback riding and protecting open lands from development.

**Cynthia J. Willmon, Ph.D.**, Texas Tech University, 2011. Staff Psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic. Professional interests include: depression, diagnostic assessment, motivational interviewing, addictive behaviors, harm reduction, and anger management. Personal interests include spending time with family and friends, walking my dogs, watching home improvement shows, reading, hiking, snowboarding, music, and hopefully learning to paint.

**Christine Winter, Ph.D.**, University of Oregon, 1990. Staff Psychologist at the Mental Health Clinic since 2015; prior to that worked at a rural community mental health center for 24 years. Professional interests include politics (am a former school board member and past president of Wyoming Psychological Association), prescriptive authority for psychologists and advocacy for clients and our profession. Personal interests include gourmet cooking, snow boarding, soccer refereeing and visiting wine country.

**Don Yorgason, Ph.D.**, University of Memphis, 2011. Substance Use Disorder Specialist on the PTSD Clinical Team. Professional interests include addictive behaviors, cultural influences on treatment, PTSD, and psychotherapy process. Personal interests include reading, playing music, home improvement projects, and playing with my kids.

**Sheila Young, Ph.D.**, Utah State University, 1990, Supervisor, Behavioral Medicine Program and Chair of the Healthcare Ethics and Research and Development Committees. Professional interests include consultation and liaison with medicine, surgery, and geriatrics, health psychology, neuropsychology, end of life care; professional ethics for psychologists, professional licensure and practice issues.

## ***Past Trainees***

The 2016-2017 class includes interns from the Wright Institute, and 3 of the Alliant University campuses in California. The 2015-2016 class included interns from Pacific Graduate School of Psychology, Alliant University, and Northern Illinois University. The 2014-2015 class included interns from: University of Nevada in Reno, Fielding University, Alliant University, and PGSP-Stanford Psy.D. Consortium. The 2013-14 class included interns from: PGSP, Alliant University, University of Mississippi, and PGSP-Stanford Psy.D. Consortium. The 2012-13 class included interns from: University of Mississippi, George Fox University, University of Nevada in Reno, and PGSP-Stanford Psy.D. Consortium.

Previous internship classes have included clinical and counseling students from a variety of programs. Since our program was first accredited by APA (in 1983), we have matched with several students from University of Nevada in Reno. We have also matched with several students from Pacific Graduate School of Psychology, in Palo Alto, CA over the years. Some of the other programs that have been represented over the past 8 to 10 years include Alliant University, Jackson State University (Jackson, MS), University of Denver (Denver, CO), University of NV at Las Vegas, and Brigham Young University.

After graduation, our interns have moved on to a variety of professional positions. We are proud that 6 of our current staff psychologists are former interns. The majority of our interns secure either post-doctoral training positions or employment in professional psychology upon completion of our program. The types of positions that interns have entered since 2000 have included private practice, VA medical centers, medical school faculty, university counseling centers, and various post-doctoral training programs. The majority of our former interns have become licensed psychologists within a few years of graduation, many in the states of Nevada or California.

## ***Local Information***

The VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System serves one of the largest geographical areas in the VA system. This area includes much of northern Nevada and northeastern California (some 380,000 square miles) with an estimated veteran population of close to 53,000. Our system also includes outpatient VA clinics located in Auburn, CA, Minden, NV, Fallon, NV, and Susanville, CA. The Reno-Sparks area and surrounding Truckee Meadows, located at the base of the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada, has a population of about 425,417. At an elevation of 4,400 feet, Reno's climate is generally sunny and dry, with wide variations in temperature during a 24-hour period.

Reno is just minutes away from mountains, forests, and lakes as well as high desert areas complete with ghost towns. It offers many exciting opportunities for outdoor recreation, including backpacking, biking, boating, fishing, hunting, camping, and skiing (both downhill and cross-country). Beautiful Lake Tahoe,

*Updated April 13, 2016*

about an hour's drive from Reno, is known the world over for its year-round recreational opportunities. The Reno/Tahoe area contains the world's largest concentration of ski resorts - 19 in all - and has an unusually long ski season.

A wide variety of social and cultural activities are offered throughout the year in Reno. These range from big-name entertainment to community theatre, opera, ballet, community concerts, exhibits at Reno's excellent art museum, and activities held on the University of Nevada-Reno campus. Popular annual events include the month-long ArtTown festival, the Hot Air Balloon Festival, Hot August Nights, National Championship Air Races, Best of the West Rib Cookoff, and Street Vibrations.

Both Carson City, one of the nation's smallest state capitals, and Virginia City, a mining town founded in 1859, are just a short drive away. Northern California is also easily accessible, with flight time to San Francisco less than an hour, and driving time to Sacramento only two hours.

***Informative websites include:***

reno.com

[www.tahoerimtrail.org](http://www.tahoerimtrail.org)

<http://nv.gov/>