

Passed at NCSPP business meeting on 1/24/04:  
Advocacy as a Professional Value and Attitude

“Be it resolved that NCSPP endorse the inclusion of advocacy as a professional value and attitude.

“The education and training of 21<sup>st</sup> century psychologists aspires to incorporate exposure to, and experience with advocacy that extends beyond action supporting the direct service needs of clients. Advocacy also activates public policy considerations, advances improved service, training, research and funding, promotes practice to the full extent of our education and training, and raises the awareness of issues that affect the well-being of the public at large. From grassroots activism to local, national and international lobbying, the informed, effective advocate provides expertise on challenging human welfare issues while strengthening the voice of psychology in public policy decisions.

“Advocacy as a professional value and attitude promotes the knowledge and skills of the professional psychologist toward promoting the interests of individual clients, systems of care, public health and welfare issues, and/or professional psychology itself. Activities are directed to governmental and legislative bodies, licensing or credentialing boards, other organizations representing psychology, organizations representing higher education and other entities. A systems perspective complements this area and the broad values put forward by NCSPP related to diversity as previously defined are to be considered as consistent with the goals and foci of advocacy activities. This area is also concerned with the creation of a socially responsive voice for the underserved, economically disadvantaged and powerless.

“By endorsing this motion we are encouraging NCSPP member programs to develop through a multitude of mechanisms these professional values and attitudes in ourselves and our students. This does not demand the addition of required courses to the curriculum. Rather, it is expressed through promoting the development of active citizen psychologists and enhances the education and training of NCSPP students.