**Opening Comments**

**Stanley Sue, PhD**

**Distinguished Professor and Co-Director, Center for Excellence in Diversity**

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With the election and re-election of Barak Obama, the United States saw its very first African American President. The election was initially hailed as a reflection of increasing racial and ethnic harmony and respect. This optimism has dramatically changed in the second term of his Presidency. Some now believe his election has made no difference or has resulted in a deterioration of race relations. We have witnessed, at least through the media, increased incidents of violence between police and ethnic minorities, anti-immigrant sentiments, and challenges to voting rights legislation that affects ethnic minority groups. Have fundamental race and ethnic relations changed? If so, are the changes beneficial and signs of progress? What is the meaning of the Obama Presidency and his legacy?

These three questions, as well as other issues concerning race and ethnic relations, are discussed by some leaders in the field.

Abbreviated introductions because it would simply take too long to list the accomplishments and impact of these leaders in paychology.

*Dr. Helen A. Neville* is professor of Educational Psychology and African American Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is a past Associate Editor of *The Counseling Psychologist* and of the *Journal of Black Psychology*. Her research focuses on race, racism, and color-blind racial ideology. Dr. Neville has been recognized for her research and mentoring efforts including receiving the APA Graduate Students Kenneth and Mamie Clark Award, the APA Division 45 Charles and Shirley Thomas Award for mentoring/contributions to African American students/community, the APA MFP Dalmas Taylor Award for Research.

*Dr. Derald Sue*Derald Wing Sue is Professor of Psychology and Education in the Department of Counseling and Clinical Psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University.  He is known for his work on social justice advocacy, racial/gender/sexual orientation microaggressions, and the psychology of racial dialogues.  He is author of three best-selling books: *Counseling the Culturally Diverse:  Theory and Practice, Microaggressions in Everyday Life,* and his most recent publication, *Race Talk and the Conspiracy of Silence*.  His conceptualization of microaggression has been the focus of articles not only in scientific journal but also in the popular media, e.g. news reports, television, etc.

Dr. Melba Vasquez is in full time independent practice in Austin, Tx. She is a former President of the American Psychological Association (APA, 2011), and was the first Latina and woman of color of 120 presidencies of APA to serve in that role. She is a co-founder of APA Division 45, Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues, and of the National Multicultural Conference and Summit. She has coauthored 3 books and over 80 book chapters and journal articles in the areas of ethics, ethnic minority psychology, psychology of women, counseling and psychotherapy, and supervision and training. She is a Fellow of eleven Divisions of the APA.

Dr. James Jones is Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for the Study of Diversity at the University of Delaware. He served as Executive Director for Public Interest, and Director of the Minority Fellowship Program at the American Psychological Association. After earning his Ph.D. in psychology at Yale University, he taught at Harvard University. His book, *Prejudice and Racism* was published in (1997), and His most recent book, *The Psychology of Diversity: Beyond prejudice and racism,* was published in 2014. His awards include the Lewin Award from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, Lifetime Achievement Award for the Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues and the Distinguished Psychologist Award from the Association of Black Psychologists, and Lifetime Contribution to Psychology award from, the American Psychological Association.

Dr. Mona Amer

Dr. Joseph E. Trimble, is Distinguished University Professor and Professor of Psychology at Western Washington University; also he is a President’s Professor at the Center for Alaska Native Health Research at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Throughout his long career, he has focused his efforts on promoting psychological and sociocultural mental health research with indigenous populations, especially American Indians and Alaska Natives. He is the editor or author of 20 books and over 140 journal articles and chapters and the recipient of 20 fellowships, awards, and honors. Some of the awards include: the Distinguished Psychologist Award from the Washington State Psychological Association; the Distinguished Elder Award from the National Multicultural Conference and Summit; the Henry Tomes Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Psychology by the Council of National Psychological Associations for the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Interests and APA’s Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues, and the 2013 National Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award.