



## NEWS RELEASE

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# **Palo Alto University's *Center for Excellence in Diversity* Hosts 'Women of Color Leaders in Psychology'**

*Nationally-known Psychologists & Exhibit Address Challenges, Strategies for Success*

**June 5, 2018 – Palo Alto, CA** – The history and challenges faced by women of color in psychology is the focus of a special event hosted by Palo Alto University's [Center for Excellence in Diversity](#), Friday, June 8, at the Los Altos History Museum. The evening event features a nationally touring exhibit, "I am Psyched," that explores the history and contemporary contributions of women of color in psychological science, practice, and social justice followed by a panel discussion with three nationally known psychologists and Palo Alto University President Maureen O'Connor, Ph.D., J.D. as moderator.

"Women of color have played crucial leadership roles in the field of psychology and mental health. They have unique strengths to offer, yet simultaneously deal with distinct challenges, says Joyce Chu, Ph.D., Co-Director of the Center for Excellence in Diversity at Palo Alto University, where she is also faculty chair and an associate professor. "We are excited to celebrate three impactful women of color leaders in psychology, and create a much needed community space to learn from both each other and icons of the field."

### **Panel**

The panel discussion will shine a light on the diversity of the field of mental health and the racial, ethnic and cultural diversity of psychologists themselves. The panel's goal is to encourage and support the use of psychology to improve lives and create positive change in all communities. The panel features the following nationally-known psychologists who are traveling to Los Altos for the event:

**Dr. Melba Vasquez** was the 2011 president of the APA (American Psychological Association) and co-founder of APA divisions 45, 56 and the National Multicultural Conference and Summit.

**Dr. Christine Iijima Hall** is the former director of Ethnic Minority Affairs for APA and the first female president of the Asian American Psychological Association.

**Dr. Wizdom Powell**, a former White House fellow, associate professor, and director of the University of Connecticut Health Disparities Institute.

**About The Center for Excellence in Diversity**

Palo Alto University's Center for Excellence in Diversity initiates, coordinates, and promotes activities that enhance PAU as a national resource for culturally competent research, training, and services for diverse or underserved populations, primarily in the realm of psychology, counseling, and mental health. The Center aims to facilitate local and national leadership and recognition of diversity efforts; promote, support, and provide opportunities for concentrated research, training, or services related to diverse populations; and serve as a resource for mentorship and professional development for students and professionals who identify as, or are dedicated to the service of, diverse or underserved populations.

**About Palo Alto University**

Palo Alto University is dedicated to improving the human condition through excellence in teaching, research and scholarship in the fields of psychology and counseling. With an unwavering commitment to diversity and to the communities it serves, PAU offers doctorate, master's and bachelor's programs, as well as hands-on clinical training. A private, non-profit university, PAU is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Connect at: [www.paloaltou.edu](http://www.paloaltou.edu)