



PROFESSIONAL CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Donell L. Barnett, Ph.D

[Linkedin](#)

- **Name of Candidate & Years of affiliation with The ABPsi**
 - Donell L. Barnett, 12 years
- **Position seeking**
 - President-Elect
- **Work Title and Name of Employer**
 - District Director, Specialized Student Services, City Colleges of Chicago
- **Education:**
 - Graduate Certificate - Strategic Management - Harvard University
 - Doctor of Philosophy - Counseling Psychology - Oklahoma State University
 - Masters of Education - Counseling - University of North Texas
 - Bachelor of Arts - Psychology - Langston University
- **Certification and Licensure Information**
 - Licensed Clinical Psychologist (IL and AZ)
- **Recent Professional Experience**
 - District Director, Specialized Student Services, City Colleges of Chicago, JUN 18 - Present
 - Chief, Behavioral and Social Health Investigations, US Army Public Health Center, MAY 14 - MAY 18
 - Director, Grafenwoehr Behavioral Health Clinic, US Army Bavaria Medical Activity, JUL 12 - APR 14
- **Additional Experience and/or Activities involving the ABPsi governance**
 - Co-Chair, Strategic Planning Committee, ABPsi
 - Co-Chair, Technology and Innovation Committee, ABPsi
 - Member, Fiscal Affairs Committee, ABPsi

- o Chair, General Assembly, ABPsi
- o Secretary, General Assembly, ABPsi
- **Other Related Memberships**
 - o National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
 - o American Psychological Association
 - o Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.
- **Awards and Honors**
 - o American Psychological Association, Presidential Citation, Citizen Psychologist
 - o Military Decorations – Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal(2), Army Achievement Medal(2)
- **Publications and Presentations** (General overview of types of publications)
 - o Mental health assessment and technology
 - o Intersections of Black mental health and politics and church/religion
 - o Topics in military mental health to include suicide prevention, and other mental health outcomes
- **Community Service**
 - o General community development and economic development in particular
 - o Church-connected work to include pro bono counseling and consulting, food pantry and other homelessness initiatives
 - o Organization-connected work to include mental health community programs, service volunteerism

Why do you want to serve on the ABPsi Board of Directors?

I am honored to be considered to be a leader in the Association of Black Psychologists. ABPsi is, and has been, a home for me all of my professional career. Beginning as a student, then early career professional, and now a professional member, The ABPsi as a whole, and many mentors, colleagues, and friends have been a beacon to me at every stage of my journey.

I want to continue to serve the ABPsi because our communities, families, and people need us, arguably now more than ever, and I want to support that effort. I believe ABPsi has played a special role in the lives of Black people. Although the world has changed since 1968, the challenges facing our people have not. The assaults on the black mind and lies dressed as truth are still the same. But I have hope. Liberating the Afrikan Mind, Empowering the African Character, and Enlivening and Illuminating the Afrikan Spirit are ingredients for healing, restoration, and renewal in our communities and beyond.

What specific skills and experiences would you bring to the position?

I bring to ABPsi a career and demeanor marked by leadership, building bridges, and innovative solutions to challenging problems. In addition to achievements as a mental health professional, I have advanced training in organizational strategy and best practices, as well as technological expertise. I understand the profession from many viewpoints and career levels. I have also broadened my skills beyond mental health and wellness to include business management and modern tools for reaching people. Most importantly, I know how to listen to all the voices in the room and envision a path forward.

What is your vision for establishing a solid financial infrastructure for ABPsi?

My vision for establishing a solid financial infrastructure for The ABPsi includes five primary efforts.

1. Build confidence in our existing fiscal practices and ensure we have a good picture of our income and expenses. We can build this confidence by modernizing our data systems and processes such that we know exactly what is coming in and what is going out.
2. We must routinely track and report on our fiscal health and do so with transparency to our constituents.
3. The ABPsi has to expand its membership base given that less than 20% of all Black Psychologists are members of The ABPsi. The ABPsi currently has approximately 450 student members across the undergrad and graduate categories. Alternatively, a little more than 150 Black identified students participated in the 2018 internship match alone. Further, The ABPsi's total membership is approximately 750 while it is estimated there are over 9000 psychologists who identify as Black according to the American Community Survey.

4. We have to diversify our revenue streams in ways that benefit not only ABPsi, but our membership and non-member stakeholders (e.g. community members, and other organizations). For example, ABPsi could benefit from a robust continuing education webinar program and a credentialing program whereby we approve mental health organizations as safe and beneficial for Black people.
5. We must build and practice organizational accountability. Income is only as good as the oversight practices to manage it effectively.

In summary, these five efforts will strengthen our current operations, grow our capacity for years to come, and support our mission by increasing our ability to reach the lives we strive to impact.

What do you believe are the most crucial internal and external opportunities and challenges facing The Association of Black Psychologists, and how would you seek to address them?

The most crucial issue facing The ABPsi is the pipeline of Black mental health professionals joining The ABPsi. This is our most significant internal and external challenge. Like many other organizations, The ABPsi has not been able to reliably recruit and retain members, contributing to short and long term financial strain on the organization. At the same time, Black psychologists who are not members do not know or will even think to consider the profound body of work The ABPsi has brought to the public discourse. Ultimately, this means that generation upon generation will increasingly lose touch with the wisdom of our ancestors. There will also be a cascading impact on all those they will help through clinical practice, research, and consulting work.

In addition to the fiscal efforts identified above, The ABPsi must rebuild relationships with every stage of the pipeline. This includes lobbying for Black Psychology coursework in every psychology training program, building research and clinical tools for students and professionals, and focusing on our Jegnaship program for early career professionals. The overall vision is for ABPsi to be a vital and meaningful partner to aspiring professionals throughout their career.