

Candidate Statement

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I am submitting this letter as notice of my interest in candidacy for the president-elect of the AK Rice Institute.

I've spent the last two years as a member of the board of the AK rice Institute. During that time I have learned many things about this organization, the value proposition that we offer to our members, the governance structure, and myself.

As The Institute embarks on its second half-century of existence, I am struck by the reverence that we have for the traditions of the work and at the same time how we have been captured by those traditions. While I appreciate that those Traditions have carried The Institute Thus far, what I'm coming to appreciate is that, to paraphrase Marshall Goldsmith, what has gotten us here is not necessarily going to get us where we need to go.

That leads me to a three-point agenda for change: Innovation, Diversity, and Inclusion.

- Innovation - What we have learned as a result of this pandemic and how the Institute was able to adapt to the new reality of technology and engaging at a distance, I believe is a watershed moment for how we might think about innovating how we offer our work to the world. The fact that we were able to Pivot as quickly as we did and offer up 20 Community meetings in a way that our membership felt engaged and connected is a testament to the institute's ability to innovate. Additionally, our willingness to experiment with other technologies like Slack and Whova, are demonstrations of our capacity to take in new ways of working.
- Diversity - Recently, there's been lots of discussion in the ways that the board has been predominated by so-called white men. I believe that we need to have diversity in many more ways. I would caution that we need to expand our notion of diversity beyond traditional categories. The expanding of identity categories that have recently begun to show in our membership and experiences is proof positive that if we don't begin to consider the multiple intersectional Identities of our membership we will have missed a huge opportunity to serve.
- Inclusion - Our tradition of system psychodynamics has its undergirding in the psychoanalytic traditions established over 50 years ago. These traditions are absolutely germane to the work that we do, the problem is not all of us are psychoanalysts, psychotherapists, or even somewhat clinically trained. The question is how do we continue to offer this work to the world when people who might be interested in doing the work, who may not be clinically trained but clinically oriented, like me. I would offer that we may need to rethink what inclusion looks like to include those who are interested in leadership, social justice, and advocacy, to use this work to help those who might not have access to this work but could take advantage of it to improve their lives.

I must admit that as I write this I am Somewhat ambivalent, but those of you that know me know that I and others in my cohort were challenged by Dr. Leroy Wells by remembering that to whom much is given much is required. It is in that spirit that I am offering up my skills and abilities in the service of the work of the AKRI.