

Meet Temre Uzuncan, Psy.D. . . .

After years of working in the business world and not feeling fulfilled, Temre Uzuncan decided to return to school to follow her dream. This led Dr. Uzuncan to the Wright Institute to study psychology. She finds it fulfilling to work with people from disadvantaged backgrounds, who have often faced extreme challenges in their lives. Dr. Uzuncan has a passion not only for helping others, but for teaching others, so they can help those at need as well. As the clinical director of the Integrated Health Psychology Training Program (IHPTP), funded by a Title VII Graduate Psychology Education grant, Dr. Uzuncan is able to train future psychologists through an interdisciplinary approach with other health professions. She also spends her days at various clinics that provide integrated care, helping patients who otherwise might not be getting the mental and behavioral health care they need, due to poverty. IHPTP has expanded Dr. Uzuncan's worldview to one that addresses the public health needs of underserved members of society. Due to her involvement with this program, she has changed her career focus from private practice to public need.



“The opportunity of IHPTP has allowed me to transition from a traditional psychological environment to a less stigmatizing integrated health services approach with a focus on measurable results.”

About the Program

- The Graduate Psychology Education grants are authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. The grants support the interdisciplinary training of psychologists to increase mental and behavioral health services to underserved populations.
- Students participating in IHPTP are placed in medical clinics run by LifeLong Medical Care, a Community Health Center, where they get hands-on psychology training in a primary care environment.
- IHPTP serves patients in underserved communities, including minority children and older adults with mental health disorders. Their services are provided at no cost to their patients.

The Effect of Funding Cuts...

- If funding for IHPTP were cut, the loss would be tremendous. The program impacts not only the training of future psychologists, but also the education of other health providers about the important role of psychology within an integrated health care team.
- Since the program's services are available at no cost to consumers, loss of funding would mean that the individuals most in need of assistance would not receive the mental health care they need. The patients, who often are impoverished with multiple social and life stressors and minimal access to mental health services, would suffer greatly.



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