
David T. Susman, Ph.D.

Brief Bio: I'm a licensed psychologist and an Assistant Professor in Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. I grew up in Virginia and attended the University of Virginia for my undergraduate Psychology degree. I received a M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Marshall University (Huntington, WV) and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Kentucky. My wife, Kathy is also a psychologist and KPA member. In my faculty role at UK, I direct the Jesse G. Harris, Jr. Psychological Services Center, the training center for clinical psychology doctoral students. In addition to administrative oversight of the center, I supervise several graduate students in the provision of psychotherapy and psychological assessment. I'm also the training director of the UK Internship Consortium, an APA-approved pre-doctoral health service psychology internship program.

As a Board Member, what do you find the most rewarding - or what are you most hoping to accomplish?: As the Kentucky representative to the APA Council of Representatives, my goal is to represent the interests of KY psychologists at the national level within the legislative body of APA and to promote the development of policies, programs and services to benefit both psychologists and the public. I enjoy interacting with psychologists who represent the APA divisions, plus those from all of the states, provinces and territories that send representatives to the Council.

Why did you decide to become involved as a leader within KPA?: I've been involved with KPA for over 25 years. I served on the Ethics Committee as a member for several years and then as co-chair. I was also an at-large representative to the KPA Board. I was KPA President from 2006-07. I helped start the KPA Ambassadors program, and currently am the coordinator. I also served on the Board of the Kentucky Psychological Foundation (KPF) for several years, as well as several other KPA committees and task forces. I've learned so much from all of these experiences, and especially value the relationships I've cultivated with so many wonderful people. It's also personally rewarding to be able to give back to the profession.

How did you end up in psychology?: I started out as a pre-med major in college, but decided psychology was a better fit for me. Apparently, this was a good decision!

Additional Comments: One of the things I like the best about my work as a psychologist is the variety of different experiences and the satisfaction derived from helping people improve their lives. I also really enjoy mentoring graduate students and helping to train the next generation of psychologists. I enjoy social media, so please connect with me on Twitter (@DavidSusman), Facebook (@DavidSusmanPhD), Instagram (@davidsusmanphd), or through my mental health blog at davidsusman.com.