October 18, 2018

Dear Department Chairs:

We are writing you to tell you about the School Psychology Program at the University of Missouri and ask that you forward this message to any undergraduate or graduate students who are potentially interested in graduate study in school psychology. We find that few students have an accurate perception of the field of school psychology, and that many who are considering pursuing advanced degrees in clinical or counseling psychology would actually be better advised to consider school psychology training.

Modern school psychology doctoral programs provide state-of-the-art training in evidence-based preventive interventions for youth at or in risk for emotional, behavioral, and learning problems. Most importantly, school psychology students learn to intervene in systems (schools, homes, communities) and alter the antecedent risk factors for these problems.

We are proud of the program we have created at MU and feel we offer some of the best school psychology training in the world. Our Ph.D. program is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) and approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). Our Ed.S. program is built around the standards of the National Association of School Psychologists. Students will receive research and clinical training from top-producing scholars funded by federal grants. Our 7 core program faculty published 190 peer-reviewed articles, authored 18 books, and secured over $40 million in external funding over the past 7 years.

Our goal is to produce top researchers, clinicians, and leaders who focus on solving systemic issues in education. Our graduates are highly successful (100% placement rate!) in pursuing a range of employment options, including ~40% in academic/research positions and ~60% in clinical settings (split evenly across school and community/hospital settings).

We have a culturally diverse student population with 30% of our current graduate students from minority or international backgrounds. We train culturally responsive, intellectually rigorous school psychology scientist practitioners. Students who select our program want to be part of something bigger; they want to learn the skills to tackle large-scale problems in education and beyond. We hope that some of your excellent students will want to join us in this mission!!

Please consider forwarding this email to students in your department who may be interested in a career in school psychology and psychoeducational research. A brochure detailing our programs of study and our faculty is attached. For more detailed information on our programs of study, faculty accomplishments, and program outcomes, potential applicants should visit our program website (https://education.missouri.edu/educational-school-counseling-psychology/degrees-programs/school-psychology/) or contact Dr. Cheryl Offutt (Program Coordinator) at offuttc@missouri.edu or 573/882-2592.

Sincerely,

School Psychology Program Faculty at the University of Missouri