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FROM INSTITUTE ON AGING**

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**Institute on Aging 2013 Recipient of “Innovative Geropsychology Training Award”**

**San Francisco, CA, July 31, 2013:** Institute on Aging’s Psychology Student Training Program has been selected as the 2013 recipient of the “Innovative Geropsychology Training Award” by the Council of Professional Geropsychology Training Programs. This national award is given annually to a program that demonstrates excellence and creativity in geropsychology training and is meant to inform development in other training programs across the country.

The goal of the program is to identify mental health issues through screening and provide evidence-based home visiting psychotherapy to a group of clients that may have limited access to therapy. “It is an honor for the program to receive this recognition, and it inspires us to continue our efforts to be the leaders in home-based mental health services to older adults. We are developing the best geriatric mental health workforce of the future,” said Tom Briody, President and CEO at Institute on Aging. “This is especially important in the context of a recent national task force report released by the Institute on Medicine which points out the ‘conspicuous lack of national attention both to preparing the healthcare workforce to care for older adults with mental health and substance abuse conditions and to insuring sufficient numbers of appropriately skilled personnel.’”\*

Institute on Aging provides year-long training placements to doctoral-level psychology students from Bay Area professional schools and universities. As one among a limited number of home-based geriatric mental health programs in the US, students gain experience working as part of a diverse, interdisciplinary team, providing multi-lingual care to some of San Francisco's most vulnerable and isolated older adults.

The “Innovative Geropsychology Training Award” marks the second time in the past two years that Institute on Aging’s Home Visit Psychotherapy and Student Training Program has received national recognition for excellence and innovation. In 2011, the program was selected by the Geriatric Mental Health Foundation and American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry as a “model program in home-based geriatric mental health.”

\*IOM (Institute of Medicine). 2012. *The Mental Health and Substance Use Workforce for Older Adults: In Whose Hands?* Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

Institute on Aging is a community-based non-profit organization serving thousands of older adults and people with disabilities in San Francisco, Marin, and the Peninsula, empowering independence and preserving dignity. For more than 25 years, IOA has developed and provided innovative programs in health, social service, creative arts, community and professional education. Visit [www.IOAging.org](http://www.IOAging.org) or call 415.750.4111 for more information.

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