

Cheryl Grills

President's Professor, Psychology | Psychological Science at Loyola Marymount University

Los Angeles, CA, US

Bellarmino College of Liberal Arts

Biography

Dr. Cheryl Grills is a Clinical Psychologist with a current emphasis in Community Psychology. A President's Professor and Full Professor in the Department of Psychological Science, she has been on the faculty of LMU for 36 years and is Founder and Director of its Psychology Applied Research Center. She also founded Imoyase Community Support Services, a 33-year non-profit organization providing action research, program evaluation and strategic technical assistance to social justice and social service community-based organizations. Dr. Grills is a national Past President of the Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi). In her leadership role in the ABPsi, she was a founding member of the Alliance of National Psychological Associations for Racial and Ethnic Equity. She co-designed the racial stress and trauma Emotional Emancipation (EE) Circles—a community self-help model established by The Community Healing Network and implemented in partnership with the Association. As the lead of the EE Circles Training Team Dr. Grills has trained people of African ancestry around the world to facilitate healing circles that address the stress and trauma associated with anti-Black racism. In 2019, using community based participatory practice, she co-created and continues to support the South Los Angeles Healing Circles, a community-based healing circle effort designed for City Council District 8 to disrupt violence in South Los Angeles. Dr. Grills served on the CA Reparations Taskforce, appointed by the Governor of CA (2021-2023) and is a commissioner on the National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC). She also serves as a Commissioner on the Los Angeles County Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections, which focuses on conditions and practices within County jails and correctional facilities. She was Co-Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection whose work led to significant reforms in LA County's approach to child welfare, including establishment of an Office of Child Protection. Most recently, Dr. Grills was appointed to the Governing Council of the Global Pan African Movement and is member of the International Planning Committee for the 8th Pan African Congress to be held in 2024. Dr. Grills has also recently been appointed as commissioner on the 400 Years of African American History Commission, a federal commission under the Department of the Interior.

Areas of Expertise

Healing, Racial Stress, Positive Youth Development, Community Psychology, African-Centered Psychology, Reentry and Recidivism in Criminal Justice, Mental Health Disparities, Program Evaluation, Trauma

Affiliations

Association of Black Psychologists, Psychology Applied Research Center (PARC@LMU), Imoyase Community Support Services (ICSS), Community Healing Network, Alpha Sigma Nu, CA Reparations Task Force, National African American Reparations Commission, Los Angeles County Sybil Brand Commission, Department of the Interior ? 400 Years of African American History Commission

Education

University of California at Los Angeles
Ph.D. 1985

University of California at Los Angeles
M.A. 1982

Yale University
B.A. 1980

Accomplishments

Drum Major for Service Award
Awarded by President Barack Obama (2013)

Certificate of Special Recognition
Awarded by the Honorable Maxine Waters, 35th Congressional District (2011)

Honors for Excellence in Turning Research into Action
National Alliance on Mental Illness, NAMI Urban LA (2011)

Faculty Recognition Award
Kente Graduation, Loyola Marymount University (2011)

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