Dr. Gale M. Sinatra is the Stephen H. Crocker Chair of Education and Psychology at the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California. She received her B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dr. Sinatra spent 10 years on the faculty of University of Utah and 10 years as a professor of Educational Psychology at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

She heads the Motivated Change Research Lab at USC, the mission of which is understanding the cognitive, motivational, and emotional processes that lead to attitude change, conceptual change, and successful STEM learning. Sinatra’s model of conceptual change learning (see Sinatra, 2005) describes how motivational factors contribute to the likelihood that individuals will change their thinking about a scientific topic.

Along with her colleague Barbara Hofer of Middlebury College, VT, she is working on her next book on the psychology of public understanding of science to be published by Oxford University Press in 2020.

I am profoundly honored to serve as the next president of Division 15. To follow in the footsteps of so many scholars who have served in this role is truly humbling. I care as deeply about the sustainability of our discipline as I do about the sustainability of our environment. As such, my presidential theme is, “Educational Psychology for a Sustainable and Promising Future.”

This theme serves as a call for action to sustain and grow our discipline and its impact into the future through two objectives:

Active Stewardship of the Discipline. Our work begins with our members. Building on the work of our recent past presidents, this theme calls for active commitment to stewardship of the discipline of educational psychology by our current members. This also means broadening and diversifying our membership. Educational Psychology must become a beacon for those who wish to support learning in all contexts and for all learners.

Increasing our Impact on Social and Ecological Environments. We must work to increase our efforts to impact policy and practice. Educational psychologists must leverage our research on learning, motivation, epistemic cognition, critical thinking, and reasoning to promote a sustainable future both socially and ecologically. The work of Division 15 members is uniquely positioned to contribute to understanding challenges in public trust in expertise, research, and science. As an organization we can and must advance public understanding of societal and environmental challenges towards creating a more just and sustainable future.

- Gale M. Sinatra
APA Division 15
President-Elect