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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION TO AWARD DISTINGUISHED
FELLOWSHIPS TO NINA BROWN, EDD, LPC, NCC, DFAGPA AND
ELEANOR F. COUNSELMAN, EDD, ABPP, CGP, DLFAGPA

NEW YORK, February 18, 2020— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) announced that **Nina Brown, EdD, LPC, NCC, CGP, DFAGPA** and **Eleanor Counselman, EdD, CGP, DLFAGPA** will be awarded Distinguished Fellowship in the Association at its upcoming AGPA Connect 2020 in New York City, March 2 - March 7 at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel. The award presentation will take place during the Anne and Ramon Alonso Presidential Plenary Address on Friday, March 6, 2020 at 8:30 AM. Distinguished Fellowship is the highest honor bestowed by the Association, recognizing outstanding leadership and contributions to the field of group psychotherapy.

Nina Brown, EdD, LPC, NCC, CGP, DFAGPA (Virginia Beach, VA) is a highly respected counselor, professor, researcher and leader in the AGPA Community. Dr. Brown has served AGPA and other professional organizations dedicated to group psychotherapy for many years, serving as President, Past-President, and Board member of the Society for Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy (APA Division 49) and the Commissioner of APA Commission on Accreditation. Dr. Brown served as Secretary of AGPA from 2016-2018 and also previously served on the AGPA Board of Directors. She authored the AGPA published *Curriculum for Psychoeducational Groups*. Dr. Brown has been an Institute leader and Conference faculty member at AGPA Connect numerous times, as well as a member of the Institute Committee of AGPA Connect; she has also presented at several conferences and workshops for the Carolinas Group Psychotherapy Society and the Mid-Atlantic Group Psychotherapy Society. Dr. Brown served as President of the Mid-Atlantic Group Psychotherapy Society. Notably, Dr. Brown recently chaired the successful campaign to petition the American Psychological Association Council for the Recognition of Specialty and Proficiency Practice for recognition of group psychotherapy as a specialty practice. She currently serves as a consultant to the IBCGP Practice Development Committee regarding how best to approach implementation nationally of this new recognition for group. Dr. Brown acted as principal investigator for NASA-sponsored research and has published more than 35 books and 50 articles in refereed national journals. Dr. Brown serves currently as Professor and Eminent Scholar at Old Dominion University, a post she has held since 1990. Dr. Brown has taught numerous courses at the graduate level, as well as taught undergraduate courses. She is one of the preeminent experts in the nation on the topic of psychoeducational group work, authoring a widely-adopted textbook, *Psychoeducational Groups*, now in its fourth edition.

Eleanor F. Counselman, EdD, CGP, DLFAGPA (Belmont, MA) is a highly respected psychologist, professor, researcher and leader; including serving as President of AGPA for two successive terms and a member of the Board of Directors for AGPA, the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health and the International Board

for Certification of Group Psychotherapists. Dr. Counselman also served on the Editorial Board of the *IJGP* from 2000-2008, as *Group Circle* editor from 2000-2006, and the Affiliate Societies Assembly from 2007-2010. Within AGPA Connect, Dr. Counselman has co-chaired the Institute Committee and served for many years on both the Workshop and Institute Committees. She has presented numerous times at AGPA Connect and conferences for Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society, Mid-Atlantic Group Psychotherapy Society, Psychotherapy Networker, as well as internationally. Dr. Counselman is an active member and leader of the Northeastern Society for Group Psychotherapy; she has served as President, Treasurer, Board member, and conference and seminar faculty. In 2000, Dr. Counselman received the Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Theory and in 2008 she received AGPA's Affiliate Assembly Award. Dr. Counselman was deeply involved in the successful petition to the American Psychological Association to gain specialty status recognition for group psychotherapy from the Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP). She has authored or co-authored more than 20 articles in various journals and professional publications. In addition, Dr. Counselman has taught and/or supervised countless group psychotherapists. She has served on faculty at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston Institute for Psychotherapy, Harvard Medical School, and Boston University Counseling Service.

“Distinguished Fellowship recognizes those who are seminal leaders, teachers, clinicians, researchers and authors in the global community of group psychotherapy,” said Incoming President Melyn Leszcz, MD, FRCPC, CGP, DFAGPA. “Dr. Brown and Dr. Counselman, with their local, national and internationally renowned leadership in AGPA and the group psychotherapy field, epitomize this recognition.”

This award presentation is a highlight of **AGPA Connect 2020**. The theme “Group: Growth and Renewal” reflects the meeting’s emphasis on the power of groups to effect change in meaningful ways on personal and societal levels. This meeting attracts more than 1,000 group therapists, researchers and scientists from around the world. Group therapists of all disciplines will gather to learn the most effective techniques in working with a variety of populations in groups, an increasingly utilized modality due to its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. For more information, contact AGPA at (877) 668-AGPA (2472) or visit www.agpa.org.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media are invited to attend select sessions of AGPA Connect 2020. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfairman@agpa.org or call 877-668-AGPA (2472).

About AGPA

The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a tri-partite structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, its philanthropic arm; and the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. AGPA represents over 2,000 mental health professional members including psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers, as well as mental health, family, and pastoral counselors, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. Its members are experienced mental health professionals who lead psychotherapy groups and various non-clinical groups. Many are organizational specialists who work with businesses, not-for-profit organizations, communities and other "natural" groups to help them improve their functioning. The association also has 21 local and regional societies located across the country.

AGPA is committed to supporting the dignity and psychological safety of every individual without discrimination regarding race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sex, age, or disability. Central to our mission is a belief in the power of groups to treat mental illness, heal the scars from traumatic events, and enhance the well-being of adults and children in their families, schools, corporate settings, and communities.

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