

The Roles and Challenges of School Psychologists Worldwide
Diana Wheeler
National University

The profession of school psychology worldwide is dedicated to the goal of success for all children. Economic, political, and social conditions have influenced the roles taken by school psychologists. Globally, a continuum of skills is observed in which school psychologists demonstrate their training from the traditional assessment role to that of the newer interventionist model. Regardless of their emphasis, their focus is always to bring success to children.

School psychologists are unique in that they have expertise regarding issues of learning and are highly trained school personnel who have the ability to assume a leadership role. By accepting and practicing the role of educational leader, school psychologists will provide guidance, training and mentorship to educational personnel and administrators, as well as service to children. This expansion of role will have a greater impact on the future of our diverse educational system.

The purpose of this paper is to present a review of the literature on the roles of school psychologists internationally and nationally, as well as, share the results of a survey presented regionally to practicing school psychologist in Southern California regarding perceptions of their role in relation to a changing model.