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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL REGISTRY OF CERTIFIED GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPISTS PRESENTS 2008 AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY TO THE CENTER FOR GROUP STUDIES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, May 28, 2008 — The National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists presented the 2008 Award for Outstanding Contributions in Education and Training in the Field of Group Psychotherapy to the Center for Group Studies in New York City. The award presentation took place at the AGPA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, February 18-23 at the Hilton Washington Hotel during the Membership Community Meeting on Thursday, February 21. This award was established in 2001 and is given annually to an individual or organization whose work in group training and/or education contributes to excellence in the practice of group psychotherapy. The Registry Clinical Professional Relations Committee receives numerous high quality nominations and this year the award went to The Center for Group Studies.

The Center for Group Studies in New York City was founded in 1989, with 20 courses in group psychotherapy, framed using a Modern Group Analytic approach. The aim of the program is to train both group therapists and other talented people, outside the group therapy community, interested in working with groups. To date they have trained people working in mental health centers, community centers, school and educational settings, religious organizations, health care chaplaincies, Alzheimer disease programs, senior citizen centers, gender programs, skilled nursing facilities, hospitals, parenting centers and other social service agencies. The Center has also run its programs in Portland, Oregon, San Francisco, Austin, Texas, and St. Petersburg, Russia. Their students and graduates include people from Canada, Germany, Korea, Mexico, and Switzerland. They provide programs customized to provide staff training to organizations and agencies, as well as brief (four-week) classes and workshops for the professional community.

“The Center for Group Studies is a sterling example of quality group education and training” said Sherrie L. Smith, CSW-R, CGP, FAGPA, NRCGP Chairwoman. “Its work has been creative, innovative, and has had a profound impact on our field and beyond.”

Past recipients of the award are as follows:

2002 Henry Spitz, M.D., CGP, FAGPA

2003 Gary Burlingame, Ph.D., CGP

2004 K. Roy MacKenzie, M.D., FRCP, CGP, DFAGPA

2005 Wendi Cross, Ph.D., CGP and Saul Scheidlinger, Ph.D., CGP, DLFAGPA

2006 Marvin Aronson, PhD, CGP FAGPA

2007 Walter Stone, M.D., CGP, DFAGPA and One-Year Training Program in Group Psychotherapy of the Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society

This training award is presented each year at the Annual Meeting of the American Group Psychotherapy Association. The next meeting is February 16-21, 2009 in Chicago, Illinois. The deadline for nominations is October 31, 2008.

About the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists

The National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists is a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary credentialing body has certified over 1,500 clinicians, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, clinical mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, pastoral counselors and creative arts therapists who are recognized as group specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential.

About AGPA

The American Group Psychotherapy Association is the oldest and largest professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a tri-partite structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Psychotherapy Foundation, its philanthropic arm; and the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary association has over 3,000 members, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, clinical mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, pastoral counselors and creative arts therapists, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. The association has 31 local and regional societies located across the country. 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.

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