

Biography

Arthur C. Evans, Jr., PhD

Arthur C. Evans Jr., PhD, is CEO of the American Psychological Association, the leading scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States. With more than 122,000 researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants and students as members and affiliates, APA promotes and disseminates psychological knowledge to benefit society and improve lives – a mission consistent with Dr. Evans’s life work.

Before joining APA in March 2017, Dr. Evans spent 12 years as commissioner of Philadelphia’s Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services. In that post, he led the transformation of that agency’s approach to serving a wide range of individuals with complex needs. The transformation of the \$1.5 billion Philadelphia system relied heavily on public health strategies that contribute to better community health. He emphasized a data-driven, population health approach to improve outcomes for people and increased system efficiency. Over his tenure, the agency saved more than \$110 million that the city reinvested in improving and expanding services and employing innovative strategies to reach more people. The work in Philadelphia has become a national and international model. Dr. Evans previously served as the deputy commissioner for the Connecticut Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services, where he led major strategic initiatives to improve clinical outcomes and reduce health care disparities.

Dr. Evans is a strong advocate for ensuring that individuals receive scientifically validated treatments. He established the Evidence-Based Practice and Innovation Center, which has trained over 2000 clinicians and greatly expanded access to evidence-based services. For this work, he has been recognized by several different organizations that promote evidence-based practice, including being honored as the first recipient of the Beck Excellence Award.

An unconventional leader, he has employed science, research, community activism, traditional clinical care, public policy, and innovative cross-system collaborations to change the status quo over the course of his career. His approach gave voice to, and empowered, individuals and communities that have been historically marginalized. He ensured those with lived experiences were involved in policy decisions affecting them. He enlisted political and community leaders, grassroots organizations, academic institutions, and advocates to think differently about behavioral health care and how to improve community health.

Dr. Evans has been honored nationally and internationally for his work. In 2015, he was recognized as an “Advocate for Action” by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. In 2013, he received the American Medical Association’s top government service award in health care. In 2017, he received the Visionary Leadership Award from the National Council of Behavioral Health and was inducted into the Florida Atlantic University Alumni Hall of Fame. His efforts as a strong advocate for social justice have led to his receiving three different awards named for the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Evans has held faculty appointments at the Yale University School of Medicine, the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the Drexel School of Public Health.

Dr. Evans holds a doctorate in clinical/community psychology from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in experimental psychology from Florida Atlantic University, where he also completed his undergraduate work.