



Division of Child Life & Integrative Care Inclusion Scholarship

Description:

The Division of Child Life and Integrative Care (CLIC) aims to cultivate a sense of belonging for students and professionals within the division by acknowledging barriers, reducing burden, and fostering emotional safety. One identified burden includes any financial constraints that may otherwise prohibit a student's ability to pursue the professions within the CLIC division.

We are proud to offer a scholarship to students applying for the Child Life, Therapeutic Recreation, and Music Therapy clinical internships required by their field of study.

We are seeking diverse voices to effectively interact and connect with all people and communities as stated within [Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center's \(CCHMC\) DEI strategic plan](#). Our goal is to increase the excellence of the care we provide as a division to our patients and families by attracting individuals who value diversity and actively work toward creating inclusive and equitable environments.

We aim to represent and honor race, color, and ethnicity; gender identity, expression, and sexual orientation; disability, neurodiversity and genetic information; religious affiliation; national origin and residency status; family dynamics, structure, and commitments; veteran and military status; age; income; postal code (rural or urban) and housing security; educational attainment of parents ("first-generation college students"), and physical appearance.

How to Apply:



All internship applicants will be considered for this scholarship. To reduce the burden of additional work all scholarship components are built into the application and interview process. Essay and verbal responses will be identity-hidden, separated from the rest of your application, and reviewed by the CLIC Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Collective who have been trained in anti-bias objectivity. More information about the individuals serving on The CLIC DEIA Collective is available below.




Scholarships will be awarded to students who have been selected for their discipline's clinical internship following the full application and interview process. Recipients will have demonstrated an ability to communicate and exemplify their knowledge and understanding of DEIA within their discipline and healthcare.



Potential awards may include up to \$1,500 per month.

Our intention is to provide the scholarship offer and amount at the time of internship offer. If awarded the scholarship, students will have the opportunity to accept or decline the award money. The awarded recipient will not be made public and will have no added requirements to their internship.

The DEIA Collective

<i>Ali Houser, CCLS</i>	Emergency Dept. Child Life Specialist
	<p>Ali (she/her) has worked in the Emergency Department for 7 years. During her time in the Emergency Department, she has worked with patients and families of different walks of life in acute stress and learned the importance of how the principles of social justice can deeply influence a patient's healthcare experience. She has also observed how impactful it is to have a healthcare team that pediatric patients and families can relate to and build trust with. As a white woman with considerable privilege, it is important to her to create and champion ways to build more opportunities for greatly increasing diversity in healthcare. When not at work, she enjoys doing anything in the outdoors.</p>
<i>Annah George, CCLS</i>	PICC Team Child Life Specialist
	<p>Annah (she/her) has worked at CCHMC for 6 years with the last 2 years spent supporting the hospital's PICC team and the Difference of Sex Development clinic (DSD). She has seen first-hand how important the principles of DEIA are when not only supporting patients and families but also in working with a diverse array of coworkers. She believes that we all have so much to learn from the people around us and the more we learn, the stronger and more empathetic we become. She is excited to be a part of the DEIA Collective as it continues to promote accessibility and equality in the space of Child Life and Integrative Care. In her work with the DSD clinic, she has learned the importance of remembering that not all differences are visible and to listen to other's stories first before making any assumptions. In her free time, she enjoys watercolor painting, and attending live theater and music. She can also be found rewatching the same three shows over and over.</p>

Anthony Borzi, MA, LPMT, MT-BC	NICU Music Therapist
	<p>Anthony's (he/him) clinical interests are infant neurodevelopment, child and adolescent mental health, family systems, and how these intersect in the pediatric medical setting. His interests in DEIA have stemmed from his own experiences navigating the world as a gay man. He currently serves as a member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee for the Great Lakes Region of the American Music Therapy Association, as well as the DEIA Chair for the Association of Ohio Music Therapists. Anthony strives to embrace the discomfort, knowing that there is always something to learn and grow from in this work. Outside of music therapy, Anthony enjoys spending time in the kitchen, experiencing nature as much as possible, and spending time with his dog Maple.</p> <p>*As a music therapy Co-Internship Director, Anthony will <u>not</u> review music therapy DEIA essay responses but will be a reviewer for child life and therapeutic recreation.</p>
Becca Belden, MS, CCLS	Critical Care Building Child Life Specialist
	<p>Becca (she/her) has been with CCHMC since January 2021, beginning as a child life intern and later as certified child life specialist (CCLS) in critical care. Becca has long been interested in the principles of DEIA, power, and privilege, and finds deep importance in making the field of child life more equitable to the benefit of both future clinicians and their patients. Along with this, Becca also has interests in fostering resilience in pediatric patients, furthering research opportunities in child life, and grief in medical and care providers. Outside of work, Becca enjoys trying new recipes and singing karaoke.</p>
Breanne Eagan, CCLS	Critical Care Building Child Life Specialist
	<p>Breanne (she/her) has been a Certified Child Life Specialist for 7 years and has spent the last 3 years at CCHMC within the critical care building. Breanne is proud to be a part of the division's DEIA Collective to help lead the way for change, foster a sense of trust, and increase accessibility; not only for the internship process but for healthcare as a whole. Breanne has also been a facility dog handler for the past year to Bryn, a yellow labrador retriever mix. Breanne and Bryn serve the patients and families in the critical care building, supporting patients to reach their medical goals and improving coping during hospitalization. In her free time, Breanne enjoys being outdoors, taking care of her plants, and attending sporting events.</p>

Erin Seibert, MA, LPMT, MT-BC	PICU & Heart Institute Music Therapist
	<p>Erin (she/her) has worked as a music therapist in healthcare for 10 years. While leading music therapy internship programming, Erin became alarmed by the role the internship process plays in perpetuating systemic barriers to the music therapy profession. She began to work towards eliminating barriers that were within her control, which has since led her to the CLIC DEIA Collective. Erin has lived in the Pacific Northwest, the Southeast, and the Midwest, which has provided her with experience and awareness of various cultures and attitudes across the country. She also lives with an autoimmune disease and values the ability to support others navigating the healthcare system.</p>
Francesca Muraca, RN, BSN, RYT-200	Rehab, FIRST Program, & Medical-Surgical Integrative Care RN
	<p>Francesca (she/her) has 4 years of clinical experience as an RN and has been with Integrative Care at CCHMC since May 2023. Francesca's experiences in healthcare have shaped her views around DEIA. During this time, she noticed the glaringly different ways patients were treated by healthcare staff based on their differences to the staff and preconceived notions. It was through this that she recognized her own privilege and wanted to begin using it for advocacy. Francesca's clinical interests are in mental health, patient empowerment, increasing accessibility, and trust restoration after medical trauma. She is passionate about whole-person care and believes that every individual has their own innate wisdom. She is forever grateful that she gets to learn from and know the patients she encounters each day. Francesca is currently pursuing her MSN and PMHNP degree. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her pets, practicing yoga, spending time in nature, and reading.</p>
Katie Nees, MSHS, CCLS	Education Specialist
	<p>Katie (she/her) has 19 years of clinical work experience as a certified child life specialist in healthcare. She now serves as the Education Specialist for the Child Life & Integrative Care Division at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center overseeing the student clinical experience. She has a keen interest in how diversity translates into societal assumptions, norms and standards. As a young child, she remembers distinctly recognizing her own white privilege as well as racial injustices around her. Katie aspires to ensure our care for patients and families is built upon the perspectives of</p>

professionals from diverse backgrounds and does not conform only to the majority's needs and views.

*As the supervisor of the child life interns, Katie will not review child life DEIA essay responses but will be a reviewer for music and therapeutic recreation.

Lauren Straub, CCLS

Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics
Child Life Specialist




Lauren (she/her) has been a Certified Child Life Specialist at CCHMC for 12 years and has spent the last 7 years at DDBP working exclusively with patients who have been diagnosed with developmental and/or behavioral conditions. This work continuously shines a light on the inherent goodness of people, and on the ableism in society. Doing what is right for those impacted by racism, ableism, sexism, classism, xenophobia, homophobia, and transphobia is a privilege and a responsibility Lauren takes seriously. It's an honor to serve on the DEIA Collective and be a small part of building a robust workforce which champions the notion that variety truly is the spice of life. Outside of work, Lauren enjoys being outdoors, being the mother of a sweet tween girl, playing piano, and checking out live music.

Rachel Franklin, MS, CCLS

BMT Child Life Specialist



Rachel (she/her) has been a child life specialist for 13 years, with the past 8 years supporting patients and families in Bone Marrow Transplant with 2 years as a Clinical Coordinator. It has been an honor for her to serve and learn from so many patients, families, and colleagues throughout her professional life and personal experiences. Rachel is passionate about the values and initiatives represented by and encapsulated in the work of the DEIA Collective. Rachel is committed to ongoing learning about disparities in resources, culture, and many aspects of systems that contribute to inequities, bias, reduced opportunities and resources, and systems of oppression. She has witnessed and learned of many scenarios in which these and other disparities impact health, wellbeing, and functioning of individuals and families. Rachel believes we have both opportunities and responsibilities for contributing to meaningful change, growth, and progress. She is a lifelong learner and loves travel and her family.

<i>Tania Imendia, MS, CCLS</i>	Same Day Surgery Child Life Specialist
 <p>As a Latina woman, Tania (she/her/hers) has experienced being a minority from a different lens. She continues to learn how her “whiteness” has had an impact on her life. Due to her fair skin, she has not always “looked” Latina to others. For this reason, the quote, “don’t judge a book by its cover” resonates with her. Through this work, she aspires to celebrate all walks of life and allow for everyone’s uniqueness to shine. Tania loves her role as a child life specialist as she is able to witness patients and families see their own potential, by demonstrating coping skills and supporting them during challenging experiences. She feels honored to do this job every day and hopes to do so for many years to come. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Tania has come to be a “food connoisseur” in her spare time. She is always open to recommendations!</p>	

Related Links

- [Great Lakes Region of the American Music Therapy Association DEI](#)
- [Association of Child Life Professionals DEI](#)