



Division of Child Life & Integrative Care DEIA Student Scholarship

Description:

The Division of Child Life and Integrative Care (CLIC) is proud to offer a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) scholarship to student interns. DEIA reflects 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. Additionally, our scholarship program is seeking individuals who value diversity and actively work towards creating inclusive and equitable environments. Eligible participants include students applying for the Child Life, Therapeutic Recreation, and Music Therapy clinical internships required by their field of study.

By investing in a student scholarship, 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. Additionally, CLIC is seeking diverse voices in order to effectively interact and connect with all people and communities as stated within [Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center’s \(CCHMC\) DEI strategic plan](#), and to increase the excellence of the care we provide as a division to our patients and families.

How to Apply:

All internship applicants will be considered for this scholarship. All students will provide responses to essay questions on their application. These responses will be reviewed by a select panel of people (The CLIC 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 per semester may include:

- One to two \$6,000 award(s) for a 4-month clinical internship (Child Life and Therapeutic Recreation eligible)
- One \$9,000 award for a 6-month clinical internship (Music Therapy eligible)

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 CLIC DEIA Collective

<p><i>Ali Houser, CCLS</i></p>	<p>Emergency Dept. Child Life Specialist</p>
	<p>Ali (she/her) has worked in the Emergency Department for 5 years. During her time in the Emergency Department, she’s watched how important it is to have a healthcare team that kids 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 have more opportunities for more diversity in healthcare. When not at work, she enjoys doing anything in the outdoors.</p>
<p><i>Anthony Borzi, MA, MT-BC</i></p>	<p>NICU Music Therapist</p>
	<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 DEI 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. 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 essays responses but will be a reviewer for child life and therapeutic recreation.</p>

Becca Schaberg, MS, CCLS

Critical Care Building Child Life Specialist



Becca Schaberg (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.

Breanne Eagan, CCLS

Critical Care Building Child Life Specialist



Breanne (she/her), has been a Certified Child Life Specialist for 6 years and at CCHMC for 2 years within the critical care building. Breanne is proud to be a part of the division's DEIA taskforce 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 interests with grief and bereavement support for patients and families and one day hopes to incorporate a facility dog alongside her work as a Child Life Specialist.

Caity Ardnt, CCLS

NICU Child Life Specialist



Caity (she/her) has been a certified child life specialist for twelve years, with the last two of them being at CCHMC. Caity remembers the personal reckoning she faced years ago, when she recognized how her privilege as a white woman was not being used to champion DEIA. Caity now finds her commitment to DEIA as one of her guiding principles of the work she does with patients, families, and the entire healthcare team. She recognizes that the work within DEIA will never be truly done, as there is always room to grow and learn. As the mother of a child with a disability, it is her hope that the work that is being done now will be reflected in his future and that he may see someone like him working in

healthcare. When not at work, you can find Caity spending time with her family outdoors, cooking and getting lost in a good book.

Erin Seibert, MA, MT-BC

NICU & PICU Music Therapist



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.

Katie Nees, MSHS, CCLS

Education Specialist



Katie 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 professionals from diverse backgrounds and does not conform only to majority needs and views.

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

Tania Imendia, MS, CCLS

Same Day Surgery Child Life Specialist



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!

Related Links

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