

Meet an IPE Student Champion from Thomas Jefferson University

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Briefly describe your work with/ related to JCIPE:

For the past year and a half, I have been a graduate assistant (GA) for JCIPE and have had the opportunity to work on various projects. Along with numerous smaller tasks, some key projects I have been a part of Enhancing Services for Homeless Populations (ESHPP), the Hotspotting Program, and Team Care Planning (TCP). ESHPP focuses on enhancing students' knowledge of the needs of homeless populations through virtual world simulations. As an active participant of this program, I was able to work with students from the East Falls Campus; in addition, I was able to collaborate with the program leader to identify ways to improve the learning experience. The Hotspotting program focuses on helping patients with complex health and social needs navigate the current healthcare system. My involvement has been more behind the scenes such as data collection of super-utilizers, assisting in identifying evidence to support the program, attending panels focused on complex care, and planning the program kick-off and wrap-up. More recently, I have joined the TCP team. TCP is a program where students receive a case study and create a discharge plan and conduct a family discharge meeting. My role has been working on the literature review and assisting in planning a new case study for the program to use in the future. Other programs I have participated in are Health Mentors and TeamSAFE, all of which have expanded my skills of being an effective team member when caring for a patient/client.



What excites you about this work?

JCIPE provides amazing opportunities to engage in collaborative practice and I think this is one of the many aspects that makes Jefferson great. As a GA, I have had the privilege to be an active participant in interprofessional practice, to work behind the scenes in program planning, and to expand my skillset within research. I have learned so much through this experience and I would not have gained some of these skills if it was not for JCIPE.

What have you learned that was new?

All of these programs and projects have been valuable to my education; however, my involvement in Hotspotting stands out. As a data collector on super-utilizers, it has really opened my eyes to the effects of the social determinants of health (SDOH) and the needs of the community.

Why is IPE/CP important to you?

IPE is important to me because collaborative practice will improve patient experience. As they say, "there is no I in team" and interprofessional teams do enhance the quality of care. In addition, this opportunity helps you gain teamwork and leadership skills that you can carry out into practice.

How do you think you will apply your IPE/CP learning to your future role?

Good healthcare is interprofessional practice and being a part of a care team will be my role as a future occupational therapy practitioner. IPE learning has helped me develop the skills of communication, listening, problem-solving, critical-thinking, collaboration/teamwork, and leadership, all of which I will carry with me as a future healthcare professional.