



Meet an IPE Student Champion from Thomas Jefferson University

Meredith Gray, OTS, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

Briefly describe your work with/related to JCIPE:

I had the opportunity to work with two JCIPE programs as a Graduate Assistant – Team Care Planning (TCP) and Enhancing Services for Homeless Populations (ESHP). Team Care Planning involves interprofessional groups of students participating in a simulated discharge planning meeting with a standardized patient. For TCP, I analyzed data from simulation sessions to identify common themes that students discuss when reflecting on their simulation experience. I also worked with the Team Care Planning team to put together materials to market TCP to other universities. Enhancing Services for Homeless Populations is a virtual simulation program utilizing the program Second Life to help students learn to work on a team and provide high quality care for individuals experiencing homelessness. For ESHP, I worked to integrate harm reduction content into the program. I have updated the pre-work materials for the program to include this new concept.

What excites you about this work?

Team Care Planning and Enhancing Services for Homeless Populations are both exciting to me because they are simulation-based programs that give students an opportunity to practice and learn in a low-stakes environment that allows for mistakes and reflection. I think when students can practice in an environment that allows us to try new things and apply our knowledge, we can learn a lot about how to be better providers in the future. It is also fun to participate and observe these programs as a student myself!

What have you learned that was new?

At first, everything was new to me because I had never participated

in any interprofessional programs as an undergraduate! I have really come to appreciate the importance of interprofessional education though, and I have learned that for our health care system to work effectively for patients, providers need to be able to communicate their ideas to other providers who haven't had the same professional education. Recently, I had the opportunity to participate in a standardized patient training for Team Care Planning. Even though this wasn't a full simulation, I had to learn to communicate occupational therapy concepts in ways that I never did before and this was an invaluable experience during my graduate education.

Why is IPE/CP important to you?

I think it is so important to be able to participate in high-quality interprofessional programs as students because as professionals in the health care system, we will need to have interprofessional interactions on a daily basis. Interprofessional education gives students an opportunity to learn about the roles of other health care professions and develop language to communicate our own professional ideas and goals to others.

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

As a future occupational therapist, I think I will use the interprofessional skills and knowledge I have learned daily to provide my clients and patients with cohesive, high-quality care. I had the opportunity this semester to participate in JCIPE's Interprofessional Palliative Care Program, and I can see myself working as an occupational therapist on a palliative care team to help individuals reach their goals and have a quality of life despite chronic or life-limiting illnesses. I am excited to use my interprofessional education in my future career as an occupational therapist!