

Personal Statement

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24 April 2025

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Throughout my childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood, I have seen many trends come and go, but some remain the same. One main thing that I've noticed throughout my experiences is the strong need for social and emotional well being. To do so, there must be support in the community and family, as well as education on how to best understand feelings and others. For this reason, I find myself to be very compelled in the area of Mental and Behavioral Health Services and Interventions. Without these things being taught at a young age, many children and adults may struggle understanding their own feelings and those feelings of others. Another area I feel drawn to is that of Preventative and Responsive Services. Many situations can be reduced to minimum occurrences with the proper preparation, planning, and education for warning signs and risk factors. In doing so, many communities and individuals can be better protected from certain types of harm. By keeping our kids safe, we keep the community safe. Lastly, I am a big supporter of Diversity in Development and Learning. By embracing diversity in the community, all students and professionals feel included and enjoy a safer, more enjoyable environment to learn. In addition, diversity puts differences on display and welcomes them. This is a great way for students to learn about different cultures, ethnicities, disabilities, genders, socioeconomic statuses, and sexual orientations.

Throughout my opportunities to practice school psychology in practicums and internship settings alike, I have been able to put these theoretical orientations into practice. In doing so, my understanding and passion for the above categories has deepened tremendously. I had the opportunity to put these orientations into practice, and use them in tandem with the information I learned throughout my classes at Rider University. In doing so, my abilities as a school psychologist grew stronger and I feel well prepared for what lies ahead. I aim to never become

complacent, and always strive to better myself professionally and personally to best support the work I will do in the field of psychology and education.