

Saharra L.Dixon
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EDUCATION

New York University, New York, NY December 2019
MA, Educational Theatre in Colleges and Communities: Specialization in Applied Theatre
Study Abroad: Dublin, Ireland *Creating Meaning Through Community Drama* Summer 2019

University of Delaware, Newark, DE May 2018
BS, Health Behavior Science: Minor in Public Health [Cum Laude]

CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

CHES®, Certified Health Education Specialist #32970 October 2019
National Commission for Health Education Credentialing
Member, Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) Current
Member, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. November 2016-Present

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation/Performance, “Turbulence”
● North American Drama Therapy Association Annual Conference November 9 2019

AWARDS

- NYU Steinhardt Student Research and Creative Project Grant: *Back to the Basics* June 2019
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Educational Advancement Foundation 2019 Youth PAC Essay Finalist
 - Awarded for short essay proposing the use of Forum Theatre in bridging the gap between clinician and patient communication and trust to address the disparities in Black maternal mortality rates in the U.S.
- University of Delaware Student of Distinction 2015-2019

RESEARCH

New York University, New York, NY September 2018-Present
Co-Researcher/Performer, Theatre & Health Lab, “Turbulence”

- Exploring the experiences of Black and Brown People of Color (BPOC) in clinical settings and the larger world through drama therapy and other arts-based inquiry, which included the writing and production of an interactive performance-activism theatre play titled “Turbulence”
- Participate in participatory-action research involving image theatre, play, and other artistic methods of data collection to understand how best to serve the needs of BPOC clinicians, health educators, and society at-large who function in predominantly White spaces
- Engage audience members in challenging systems of oppression through interactive performance elements with the aim of enhancing cultural awareness around BPOC identities and fostering social action
- In the process of creating materials for dissemination, including articles for potential publication

WORK EXPERIENCE

Camba, Inc., Brooklyn, NY

September 2019-Present

Health Educator, Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program (CAPP)

- Sexual and reproductive health educator in a New York State Department of Health funded program
- Implement comprehensive, age-appropriate, and evidence-based sexual education programming to youth ages 10-21 in high-need communities and schools across Brooklyn using the Be Proud! Be Responsible! and Making Proud Choices! curricula
- Develop and facilitate workshops and youth development activities including mental health awareness workshops, healthy relationship workshops, career preparedness workshops, and interactive theatre workshops
- Refer youth to medical providers and other social services as needed
- Collect data for each curriculum and workshop to include in online reporting system

New York University, New York, NY

September 2018-August 2019

Part-time Preprofessional Advisor, College of Arts and Sciences

- Advised students and alumni interested in pursuing professional studies such as medicine, dentistry, law, and veterinary and tailored messaging to each student's needs
- Interviewed over 30 students as part of the Committee Letter process for medical school applications
- Wrote over 20 Committee Letters, attesting to applicant strengths and weaknesses in several areas including education, research, work, and volunteer experience
- Refer students to other on and off-campus resources as needed, including health and wellness services
- Worked actively to maintain confidentiality

Armed Services Arts Partnership, Alexandria, VA

May 2018-August 2018

Program Development Intern

- Supported planning and execution of program's classes, workshops, and performances across Washington, D.C. area in helping reintegrate veterans and service members into their communities through the arts
- Assist with the creation and implementation of processes for expanding the program including instructor assessment and training, admissions, program/performance standard operating procedures, program communications, and volunteer recruitment and management
- Developed a program DIY toolkit for community members interested in developing their own affiliated arts-based workshop or event including resources on how to plan and recruit participants

University of Delaware, Newark, DE

June 2017-August 2017

Data Collector, Department of Behavioral Health and Nutrition

- Assisted with data collection, recruitment and program evaluation for a Delaware statewide project so as to assess the impact of a quality improvement project on health outcomes and related cost savings

Planned Parenthood of Delaware, Newark, DE August 2016-December 2016
Community Education Intern, The Sexuality Education Training Institute (SETI)

- Aided in preparation and delivery of educational workshops for students ages 8-12 on various aspects of sexual and reproductive health using age-appropriate, evidence-based educational curricula
- Facilitated a variety of outreach programs such as an interactive discussion on healthy relationships for teen mothers
- Created two educational brochures as a standalone project addressing sexuality for persons with developmental disabilities

University of Delaware, Newark, DE February 2015-May 2018
Lead Peer Advisor, Career Services Center

- Counsel undergraduate and graduate students with career search process including resume and cover letter development
- Review student resumes, cover letters, and LinkedIn profile pages and give corrective feedback
- Present weekly presentations to first-year students on resources available through the office

ARTS-in-HEALTH PROJECTS

We're Having a Party!, New York University, New York, NY July 2019-Present
Playwright and Developer, Program in Educational Theatre

- Youth discover what it means to make healthy lifestyle choices as they help characters prepare for a party in an immersive and interactive theater experience. Children will be asked to help plan the best party of the century while exploring topics like choosing healthy foods, physical activity, hygiene and safety

Back to the Basics, New York University, New York, NY September 2018-Present
Student Developer/Facilitator, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development

- Exploring how interactive theatre and health coaching programming can assist students in identifying and alleviating stress and anxiety for academic success in an effort to supplement university counseling services in outreach to first year students and high-risk students
- Curriculum development for potential implementation at colleges and universities to serve as a tool to alleviate burden on counseling centers and to identify at-risk students
- Facilitated 3 pilot programs

Band-aids, New York University, New York, NY January 2019-April 2019

Director, Steinhardt Educational Theatre Youth Ensemble

- Directed a micro-ensemble of youth ages 13-18 in a new play, *Band-aids: A Temporary Fix*, which explores how school dress codes disproportionately target feminine bodies
- Explored multiple acting pedagogy and practice with youth, leading them through a co-created process to ensure their thoughts and feelings were reflected in the art piece

RELEVANT TERM PROJECTS

New York University, New York, NY
Student, College of Global Public Health

August 2019-December 2019

Project: Exploring Teen Births in Fordham, NY

- Course: Global Issues in Social and Behavioral Health
- Learned how to access and present demographic and health data retrieved from local and national web-based data sources
- Assessed how neighborhood conditions might affected teen birth rate
- Described the pathways of influence between teen birth, proximal risk factors and root causes
- Considered social, psychological and biological mechanisms that connect these factors
- Synthesized health data and conceptual maps of relations
- Developed and delivered a concise presentation on a teen birth

New York University, New York, NY
Researcher/Student, Steinhardt Programs in Educational Theatre

August 2018-December 2018

Project: Black/African American College Students and African American Vernacular English

- Course: Methods and Materials of Research in Educational Theatre
- Developed a small , mixed-methods study seeking to critically examine the attitudes and existing approaches to African American Vernacular English (AAVE) use among Black/African-American undergraduate and graduate students within the university and campus setting
- Conducted a thorough literature review, survey, focus group, observation, and interviews from which to pull and analyze data
- Devised a short theatrical piece that explores the experiences of AAVE-using Black/African-American college students, offering a lens into the questions: “Why do I talk this way?” and “what are my experiences as a AAVE-speaking college student?” This piece was inspired by data collected through a survey, observations made at New York University, and several interviews. This piece may help stakeholders begin to explore the many answers to these questions, garnering understanding of their plight in academic spaces and navigating the many facets of their identity, community, culture, and more

New York University, New York, NY
Student, Steinhardt Programs in Educational Theatre

January 2019-May 2019

Project Title: Act Up! Peer Health Exchange: A Peer Educator Training Program

- Course: Acting: Pedagogy, Technique, and Performance
- Developed an arts-based peer health educator training program
- From Synopsis: *Act Up! Peer Health Exchange* is a program for college students to develop as health leaders on their campuses, in local high schools, and within their communities. Peer Educators fulfill the program’s goals by receiving training in the foundations of public health, social justice, and applied theatre. More so, Peer Educators will be able to provide interactive, drama-based educational outreach and conduct needs-assessments

University of Delaware, Newark, DE
Student, Department of Behavioral Health and Nutrition

August 2017-December 2017

Project Title: Precious Start, Bright Future

- Course: Health Promotion Program Development
- Developed a culturally-sensitive 3-month infant mortality intervention for Black/African-American mothers and infants in Wilmington, DE
- Analyzed data from key-informant interviews, needs assessments, census statistics, and the state of Delaware

ARTICLES

Dixon, S.L. "What can theatre contribute to public health?: an open invitation to arts-based inquiry".

Intervene Upstream. August 20, 2019. Retrieved from

<https://interveneupstream.org/what-can-theater-contribute-to-public-health-an-open-invitation-to-arts-based-inquiry-1652>