

Final Project



By Brigit O'Neill

MCS Services

During my time at Kennedy Krieger Institute, I've had the opportunity to create DPD's, lead virtual support sessions, make the weird celebrations slides, make schedules and write family communication emails.

I lead employment sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays with community members. We talked about life skills, employment training, and everyday tasks. I enjoyed seeing the community members were engaged with one another and when they volunteered to participate.

While most of what I did at Kennedy Krieger was online, I went in person a few times and saw first hand how excited and present the community members are with everyone.

Interview Project

I had the opportunity to interview 4 individuals from the Kennedy Krieger Institute who all have a different connection to Kennedy Krieger. After each interview, I was able to reflect on what each individual values about Kennedy Krieger. Each individual taught me something valuable that I will search for when I am out in the real world.

- Alyssa Thorn who is a Staff Attorney with Maryland Center for Development Disabilities, discussed the importance of mentorship. Throughout an individual's career, the proper mentorship, bosses, and role models can impact you substantially.
- Alyssa had also taught me that the qualities most valuable in her career are caring about the individuals and enjoying taking on other people's problems in order to help them.

Interview Project

- Julia O'Connor, Licensed Psychologist, taught me the importance of a positive environment. Julia described how refreshing it is to be surrounded with people who all want the best for the community members. Julia described the importance of having similar motivation of helping individuals achieve the best they can.
- Joan Warren, who is a Meaningful Community Service parent, taught me the importance of having a support system. Having Kristine do meaningful work that helps her grow and advance is what Joan was looking for. Not only does Kristine have a support system, but Joan noticed her being more independent. Joan mentioned that no other community provided the support that The Kennedy Krieger Institute does.

Interview Project

- Sydney, a community member with Meaningful Community Services, expressed that Meaningful Community Services makes her feel good and allows her to feel more independent. It also allows her to have more opportunities within the community.

It is truly amazing how everyone wants to see each other, as well as, community members succeed to the best of their ability and support each other as much as they can.

Takeaway

My experience with Kennedy Krieger is one I will never forget. This internship was nothing like I expected, yet has been fulfilling and rewarding.

My first takeaway is that the work Kennedy Krieger does is meaningful and impacts so many individuals lives in the process.

My second takeaway is that community members advance their knowledge everyday and are able to grow to their full potential

My third takeaway is that I learned new skills and have gained more confidence in my abilities before I enter the workforce.

A Letter to Future Interns

Dear Future Interns,

If you are currently in the same place I was four months ago, you have an amazing opportunity ahead of you. While talking with Professor Cozart, I was unsure of what to expect when interning with Kennedy Krieger but I am immensely grateful I chose it. I was nervous, not confident in my abilities to help community members, and very unsure of myself. I worked with Cassidy who was very understanding, patient and knowledgeable. In the beginning, I was stressed out and kept thinking I was messing everything up. Now, I understand that I did not get everything perfect the first try but it helps that everyone there is willing to communicate and assist each other. Not only will your bosses be great leaders, the community members you will work with are amazing. In the little time I have been here, I have seen community members grow and become more comfortable with me. It never gets old seeing little things put a smile on their face and hearing them answer questions. Also, the excitement when a community member gets a job or volunteer opportunity is unmatched. Everyone in this program is here for a reason and all want to see each other exceed. I will never forget the time I have had with Kennedy Krieger and I hope you get to experience all Kennedy Krieger has to offer.