**EXCITING SUMMER EMPOLYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Come join our team and gain experience in your field.

**Do you have a strong desire about working with children and adolescents for nine weeks this summer?**

If so, you might be a great fit at UPMC. Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic is hiring for Mental Health Workers at the Merck Summer Intensive Treatment Program. This position will assist clinical staff with serving children and adolescents with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder.

**Who we are**

The Merck Summer Intensive Treatment Program of Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC is a behavioral health program designed to meet the unique behavioral health needs of at-risk children and adolescents. Therapeutic activities are used to increase adaptive and functional communication skills, strengthen peer socialization skills, and decrease maladaptive behaviors to improve a young person’s ability to function more successfully at home, school, and in the community.

Please contact 412-335-7584 if you would like to learn more our summer employment opportunities.

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| **Responsibilities**-Provide direct supervision and therapeutic interventions to children and adolescents-Support children and adolescents in achieving their treatment goals, using encouragement, problem-solving, and behavior modification-Lead or co-lead individual and group activities-Consistently apply knowledge of crisis intervention and behavioral management-Intervene with students and families during crisis situations-Complete daily clinical progress notes-Collect, calculate, summarize, and graph performance, observational, rating scale, checklist, interview, and/or self-report data when requested-Participate in weekly treatment team to report progress |
| **Basic Qualifications**-Pursuing Bachelor's or master’s degree in special education, social work, counseling, child development, psychology or related field required-Experience preferred in treatment and educational settings with children with multiple disabilities-Experience with data management preferred-Experience collecting, summarizing, and graphing data preferred-Basic computer skills preferred |

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| **Licensure/Certifications**-Act 33/34/73 clearances required  |

**PERSONAL EXPERIENCES**

In my junior year at Pitt, I began my internship at Merck Intensive Program. Through this experience I learned a lot about Autism Spectrum Disorder and had the opportunity to work hands-on experience with this population. Every day I spent with the kids was both rewarding and fun, and I enjoyed it so much I began to work for the summer program! During the summer program, I was able to really dive in and develop new group activities that promote learning and social interactions for the kids. After my experiences both interning and working, and connections I made with senior staff, I was able to accept a full time position after graduation with UPMC WPIC at the Adolescent Partial Hospitalization Program. I would recommend working in the summer program to anyone wanting to enter a career in psychology, education, social work, or the rehabilitation field for both the experience and relationships you can build. -Taylor W

The Merck Summer Intensive Program has allowed me to gain great professional experience. It has provided me the opportunity to grow as a leader and gain further leadership skills. My first summer being with the Merck program I was a classroom helper as a mental health workers aide. This allowed for me to become further educated on mental illness, behaviors associated with a variety of diagnosis, as well as how to teach the patients, learned appropriate behaviors to work towards their goals so that they may be eventually discharged from the program. This past summer, I was asked to become a lead classroom clinician where I gained further leadership and clinical skills such as developing a plan on how my staff and I will work towards each patient's goals. This position allows one to have hand-on experience where you have the opportunity to learn various skills in such areas as; completing medical paperwork, data, and clinical responsibilities. It has taught me useful information to use in both personal and professional settings. This job is rewarding as you watch both the patients and yourself grow throughout the summer. This position is fit for anyone looking to obtain skills and experience in the medical field, especially in mental health. I am confident that this job opportunity will allow anyone pursuing a degree in the medical field to gain professional and adequate experience to prepare them for their future career. -Carlyn B

I began working at the Merck Program in the Summer of 2015. This job was challenging, but very rewarding. While working in this position, I not only learned how to interact with patients with autism, but I also learned a lot about myself. Having said this, I learned that I really wanted to work with adolescents and continue to work for Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic as a Mental Health Worker. Through this experience at Merck, I also got connected with other professionals in the Mental Health field, and through those connections I got my first job at the Acute Adolescent Partial Hospitalization Program, where I am currently a primary clinician. -Alicia A

I began my journey at UPMC as a temporary staff member. I spent the summer learning and growing in my role as a mental health worker within the Conroy Merck Summer Intensive Treatment Program. During this time, I was able to work directly with children with developmental disabilities in a clinical setting. I was able to apply the practical knowledge I gained from my undergraduate studies and acquired a whole new wealth of behavioral knowledge I had never been exposed to before. When the program came to an end, along with my temporary position, I was sad to leave the team. I had developed rapport and a positive professional relationship with my coworkers in a short time span. I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to transition from a temporary summer staff member to a full-time employee within the Conroy Merck Intensive Treatment Program. Each day I come to work, I experience something new. The learning that began for me as a summer temp staff member continues to this day as a full-time employee. -Larissa M

I had the privilege of working as the lead teacher in one of UPMC’s ESY classrooms this past summer. My experience was incredibly rewarding and greatly contributed to my growth as both a person and professional in the field. The summer setting of the program allows for the staff to collaboratively and creatively devise engaging and fun summer activities which help each student grow academically and personally. This flexibility allowed for myself and the other staff members to design activities which aided the students in maintaining their academic and social progress, while also embracing the natural and deserved joy and importance of summer break. In addition, the small class sizes provided me with a unique chance to develop meaningful relationships with a group of wonderful children; all of whom I was intensely proud to watch grow. Working with staff who shared my love for children provided me with an awesome collaborative team and extremely valuable professional friendships. -Tiana