Alanna Burton

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Education

The Pennsylvania State University — May 2027
B.S. in Bio-behavioral Health — GPA: 3.3
Minor in Child Maltreatment and Advocacy Studies
College Health and Human Development
Bunton-Waller Fellowship

Northwest Florida State College — May 2023
A.A. in General Education/ High School Diploma — GPA: 3.6
Collegiate High School

Work Experience

HealthWorks, Pennsylvania State University — ***Peer Educator***
August 2024-PRESENT
I educate and empower students to make informed decisions regarding their health and well-being. My responsibilities include delivering interactive workshops and presentations on topics such as nutrition, stress management, sexual health, and healthy sleep patterns. I will be engaged in peer-to-peer education, facilitating discussions, and distributing health resources across campus.

Assistant Teacher, Kids Discovery Early Learning Center
Valparaiso, Florida
July 2021-July 2023
Supported lead teachers in creating a safe, engaging environment for students. Responsibilities included assisting with lesson planning, supervising activities, helping students with homework, fostering positive behavior, and encouraging social and emotional development.

Leadership and Internship Experience

Ignite Fellowship, Teach for America — ***Ignite Tutor***
PRESENT
Ignite Fellowship, a national initiative by Teach for America supports educational equity through virtual tutoring and mentorship. I aid first graders in developing their confidence in their reading skills. I have developed personalized lesson plans, tracked progress, and adapted strategies to meet the unique needs of each student.

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Autism Parent Navigators, Pennsylvania State University **— *Coder***
September 2024-PRESENT
Autism Parent Navigators (APN) is an innovative in-home, peer support model for parents with a young child recently diagnosed with ASD. We are testing the efficacy of APN in a randomized trial with 180 families. I help code recorded video interactions with parents and their young child with Autism.

Educational Equity Scholars LLC E-Board, Pennsylvania State University–**Secretary**
May 2024-PRESENT
I write and distribute accurate meeting minutes for each executive board meeting and general body meeting and work closely with faculty and incoming scholars to help ease the transition into college. My other responsibilities included constructing a newsletter to send to all current scholars at Penn State, helping run our social media page, as well as community outreach and assisting in fundraising.

Life Link, Pennsylvania State University **— *Mentor***
August 2023-PRESENT
I mentor a Penn State student with Down syndrome as well as a student with Autism who are transitioning into independent living. I provide individualized support and guidance to help students navigate academic, social, and personal challenges while also gaining confidence in their skills. My responsibilities included offering assistance with study strategies, goal setting, and time management, as well as promoting self-advocacy skills.

Projects

Capstone Project- *Shadowing a Neurologist*
Eglin Air Force Base Hospital
August 2022-March 2023
During my 15-hour shadowing experience, I observed and gained firsthand insight into the neurological and psychological impacts of the military. I witnessed patient evaluations, learned about diagnostic methods such as neuroimaging, and discussed the role of social connectivity in brain health. Through this experience and my research project, I deepened my understanding of the relationship between social isolation and conditions such as anxiety, depression, and cognitive decline, enhancing my knowledge of how environmental factors can influence neurological function and overall well-being.