



I am currently enrolled in my fourth semester as a full time graduate student in the School Psychology specialty of the department of Educational Psychology and Counseling. Upon successful completion of this program I will earn an M.S. in Counseling and the Pupil Personnel Services credential, allowing me to practice as a school psychologist in California schools.

My goal to pursue a career in the field of education has been a part of my plans since my early teen years. From my first summer job to my current position, the majority of my work and volunteer experience has involved counseling and children. To know that I can make a positive impact on a child's life is very rewarding for me.

I was most enticed to school psychology by its varied and challenging nature within an educational setting. The responsibilities of the profession involve, but are not limited to counseling, testing and assessment, behavioral intervention, classroom observation, educational referrals and crisis counseling. A school psychologist never knows exactly what the day will include, much like my current position as a counseling assistant at Irving Middle School in Los Angeles. From this experience I know that this spontaneity and high energy are vital for my growth and satisfaction within my career.

As an undergraduate I feel I dedicated my best efforts towards my education and on June 12, 1993 I graduated with high honors from the University of California, Santa

Barbara with a B.A. in Communications. I soon attained full time employment with Hathaway Children's Services, where I continue to work on various weekends and holidays. This facility is a residential treatment program for children with severe emotional disturbances resulting from traumas such as abuse, neglect, homelessness, or abandonment. My main responsibilities as a counselor-child care worker are to aid children in learning and carrying out daily living skills, counsel them in their relations with peers and adults, serve as a responsible role model, and to work closely with other members of the treatment team, such as therapists and social workers implementing Hathaway programs. All of this has proven to be an invaluable learning experience.

Complementing this experience is my current 30 hour per week position as a counseling assistant. My responsibility is to provide various psychological and educational services to students who need additional assistance to succeed in school and in the community. Included in this group are approximately 75% of Irving's students. Therefore my day is usually filled with activities such as group, individual and crisis counseling, conflict resolutions, behavioral observations and recommendations, and assistance in assessments. In addition, I am involved in a Peer Counseling Program, where I assist in training and coordinating 25 students to become peer counselors who serve their fellow students. I feel very fortunate to be involved in Irving's counseling program. I am proud of my work there and feel it is excellent preparation for my future role as a school psychologist.. .

Volunteer work has also been an activity that I like to include in my life. I currently volunteer at the Pasadena Humane Society for three hours each week. I assist in socializing and finding families for homeless dogs and cats. During my senior year of

college I served as a volunteer, tutoring gifted children through my university's honor's program. Helping a child realize his or her own potential gives me a strong sense of accomplishment. I found this experience to be emotionally rewarding..

I hope that by sharing my activities and goals, I have been able to give you a glimpse into the person I am and what I hope to achieve. I have included what I have felt to be the most significant influences on my career choice. I expect graduate school to continue to be a journey which I embark upon with great enthusiasm.