

APRN Scholars Program

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the goal of the scholars program?

Post-graduate training programs for Advanced Practice Nurses are growing. The intent of the scholars program is to provide a year-long, post-graduate training experience that allows protected learning time, exposure to developmental behavioral pediatric clinics, mental health services, and complex care both at Almost Home Kids and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital and others. The successful scholar will spend time in didactic as well as clinical work 20 hours per week, 50 weeks, over two days.

Do I need to graduate from my program before I apply for the scholars program?

No, you do not. You will need to complete board examination and be eligible and applied for licensure prior to the start date of the scholars program, but you may apply before you complete the program.

What is the start date of the scholars program?

The start date is August 3rd, 2020.

How many scholars are in each cohort?

We will accept 1-6 scholars in this cohort.

Is there a cost for the program?

Currently there is not a cost for the program. Our goal is to educate more providers to be available to patients and families in the community. This program has been graciously funded by the Coleman Foundation.

Is this a paid program?

No, as an APRN scholar at Almost Home Kids you will not receive any compensation for your participation in the program

Do you interview candidates for the scholars program?

Candidates for interviews will be selected following review of application materials. Interviews occur in June.

Am I required to sign an employment contract if I am accepted into the scholars program?

No, we do not require scholars to sign a commitment to work for Almost Home Kids or Lurie Children's following the program.

Where are the sites of care I will be working out of?

You will possibly work out of several sites of care including Almost Home Kids Chicago and Naperville, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, Advocate Children's Hospitals and Developmental Clinic, and DuPage Easter Seals.

Cohort 1 Scholars – January 2020

The Coleman Foundation Scholars Program for Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics, Mental Health and Complex Care for Advance Practice Registered Nurses.



Bertia Jennings, DNP, PPCNP, PMHS, BC

“As I undertake my journey unto another level of understanding of children with special health care needs, I am excited and intrigued. I am honored to be a scholar in this program and I look forward to the wealth of knowledge that will be gained upon completion of this journey”

Bertia A. Jennings, DNP, PPCNP, PMHS is a graduate of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland Ohio. She earned her diploma of Nursing at the (Medical College of Pennsylvania), a PNP certificate from (Metrohealth School of Nursing), BSN (Chamberlain School of Nursing), and MSN/DNP (Case Western Reserve University). She has been a nurse for 42 years, most of her adult life so she feels that she has grown up right alongside nursing during changes that include research, APRN providers, evidence-based practice, and transcultural practice. Diverse nursing experience includes pediatrics well-child, pediatric intensive care, operating room, pediatric pain management, homecare, and neonatal intensive care.



Zoé Lasky, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC

“I am honored to have been chosen to participate in this program. Not only will this program provide me with increased knowledge that will allow me to be provide greater and more holistic care to my current patient population but will also allow me to become a greater asset to caring for children during a time where there is such an extreme shortage of specialists who are educated and able to manage care of patients with complex healthcare needs. What excites me most about this scholar’s program, is that “the sky is the limit,” and my eyes will be opened to so many new and exciting opportunities”

Zoé Lasky is a pediatric nurse practitioner. She has been a nurse, caring for pediatric patients for nearly 10 years. Her background as a registered nurse is in neonatal intensive care nursing. She graduated from Rush University with her Doctor of Nursing Practice and has been working as a pediatric nurse practitioner at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago in the Orthopedic department since 2017.



Elizabeth Limberakis, MSN, APRN, PCNP-PC

“I am thrilled to be able to learn more about how to manage the mental health and behavioral issues that so many of my patients struggle with. Additionally, I look forward to utilizing my new knowledge to assist all children and families with special health care needs”

Elizabeth Limberakis has spent the past 25 years of her nursing career taking care of children, first in her role as a nurse in the PICU and emergency department and now for the past 15 years as a primary care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner She is employed by PEDIATRUST a private primary care practice. She received both her BSN and masters from UIC College of Nursing. Through participation in the Coleman Foundation Program, she is excited to expand her knowledge which will enable her to specialize in the care of children with complex medical, behavioral and developmental health care needs.