

EKENE AZUKA

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EDUCATION

AUGUST 2023 – PRESENT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, BERKELEY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Program: School Psychology; Ph.D.

Fellowships: Chancellor's Fellowship; Schwab Early Childhood Policy Fellowship

GPA: 4.0

AUGUST 2017 – MAY 2021

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, PEABODY COLLEGE

Majors: Cognitive Studies, Psychology

Minor: Philosophy

Honors: Honors Diploma; Dean's List, 8 Semesters

GPA: 3.91 / 3.75 (Cognitive Studies Major / Cumulative)

CLINICAL TRAINING

JANUARY 2025 – MAY 2025

OAKLAND, CA

ASSESSMENT PRACTIUM STUDENT, OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Conducted psychological assessments for students across a range of grade levels, utilizing standardized tools and observation to evaluate cognitive, academic, and social-emotional functioning.
- Collaborated with school psychologists and multidisciplinary teams to interpret assessment results and develop comprehensive reports to guide intervention and support strategies.
- Administered and scored assessments such as cognitive and achievement tests, contributing to the identification of students' strengths and areas for growth.
- Provided recommendations for individualized educational plans (IEPs) and other intervention strategies based on assessment findings, ensuring alignment with students' academic and developmental needs.

AUGUST 2024 – MAY 2025

BERKELEY, CA

CONSULTATION PRACTIUM STUDENT, UC BERKELEY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

- Provided consultation services to preschool educators and staff, supporting the development of strategies for addressing student behavior, learning needs, and social-emotional development.
- Collaborated with teachers and administrators to assess classroom dynamics, identifying areas for improvement and recommending evidence-based practices for early childhood education.

- Conducted observations of preschool classrooms to gather data on student engagement, behavior, and learning, providing feedback to enhance teaching approaches.
- Supported the implementation of individualized plans for students with unique learning or behavioral needs, collaborating with teachers to ensure adequate support.

AUGUST 2024 – MAY 2025

OAKLAND, CA

CONSULTATION PRACTIUM STUDENT, OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Provided consultation services to preschool educators, assisting with the development and implementation of strategies to support students’ social-emotional learning (SEL) and academic growth.
- Collaborated with teachers and staff to design and implement SEL interventions aimed at enhancing students' emotional regulation, social skills, and classroom behavior.
- Observed and assessed classroom dynamics, identifying areas for improvement in student engagement and behavior, and offering tailored recommendations for enhancing instructional practices.
- Facilitated the integration of SEL principles into daily classroom activities, supporting teachers in fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment for all students.

JANUARY 2024 – MAY 2024

RICHMOND, CA

PRACTICUM STUDENT, ASPIRE CALIFORNIA COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

- Shadowed the principal at a middle and high school, gaining comprehensive insight into the operational functions of school leadership, including faculty management, student services, and administrative processes.
- Collaborated with the child wellness team, consisting of the school psychologist, counselor, and social worker, providing support in addressing students' academic, emotional, and behavioral needs.
- Assisted in data analysis related to student performance, attendance, and behavioral trends, contributing to strategic decision-making and program development.
- Facilitated communication between school leadership, faculty, students, and parents, assisting in the resolution of concerns and promoting a supportive school environment.

AUGUST 2023 - DECEMBER 2023

OAKLAND, CA

PRACTICUM STUDENT, PIEDMONT AVENUE ELEMENTARY

- Worked directly with a group of elementary-aged students to develop essential academic, social, and behavioral skills, providing individualized support within the general education classroom.
- Assisted in delivering age-appropriate lessons in core subjects such as reading, writing, math, and science, ensuring all students received tailored support to meet their learning needs.
- Facilitated small-group and one-on-one instruction to reinforce foundational skills in phonics, arithmetic, and literacy development.
- Supported social-emotional growth by fostering positive peer interactions, modeling conflict resolution, and promoting classroom routines.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SEPTEMBER 2025 – PRESENT

BERKELEY, CA

CC+S CO-COORDINATOR & PLUS FELLOW, CENTER FOR CITIES + SCHOOLS, & WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (WCCUSD)

- Coordinate the development of WCCUSD’s State Seal of Civic Engagement (SSCE), including policy research, preparation of board materials, and facilitation of leadership working group meetings.
- Lead educator capacity-building efforts through the Y-PLAN Community Schools initiative, supporting teachers and school leaders in co-designing civic engagement and community-based learning projects.
- Collaborate with WCCUSD and UC Berkeley partners to develop and implement Y-PLAN project plans across multiple school sites, integrating student voice into local policy and planning efforts.
- Prepare policy memos, presentations, and reports to document project outcomes and inform districtwide civic engagement strategy.

AUGUST 2024 – PRESENT

OAKLAND, CA

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER, OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Delivered instruction across various subjects and grade levels, maintaining continuity of learning in teachers’ absence.
- Adapted lesson plans to meet diverse student needs and classroom dynamics, ensuring engagement and academic progress.
- Managed classroom behavior by implementing school policies and fostering a positive learning environment.
- Collaborated with staff to support students’ academic and social-emotional development, providing feedback on student performance.

JULY 2024 – JULY 2025

RICHMOND, CA

EXPLORATIONS LEAD TEACHER / ASSISTANT TEACHER, ACADEMIC TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- Designed and implemented advanced-level curriculum for Kindergarten – 5th Grade academically talented students.
- Delivered engaging lessons that encouraged critical thinking, creativity, and mastery of complex concepts.
- Collaborated with lead instructors to deliver advanced-level curriculum.
- Facilitated small group discussions, hands-on activities, and individualized support to enhance student engagement and comprehension.
- Assisted in developing lesson plans, grading assignments, and providing constructive feedback to students.

FEBRUARY 2021 – AUGUST 2023

NEWARK, NJ

SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, UNCOMMON SCHOOLS NORTH STAR ACADEMY

- Responsible for the coordination of operational systems at Fairmount and Liberty Elementary School.
- Drove the implementation and maintenance of systems relating to food service, afterschool programs, daily dismissal, and technology that ensure that daily activities run smoothly for over 900 scholars and 100+ staff within the building.
- Planned and oversaw the completion of school-wide projects related to operations, school assessment/ accountability, instruction, community relations, and strategic planning.

**AUGUST 2018 – DECEMBER 2020
NASHVILLE, TN**

ASSISTANT AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM DIRECTOR, OVERBROOK SCHOOL

- Developed and implemented educational, enrichment, and skill-based programs for over one hundred students that resulted in a safe after-school space for students to explore individual interests.
- Met with parents weekly and discussed the weaknesses and strengths of their students.
- Identified skills and interests of children by building rapport and interviewing daily, and developed programs accordingly.
- Assisted in the training and scheduling of fellow after-school teachers.

**DECEMBER 2019 – SEPTEMBER 2020
NASHVILLE, TN**

ASSISTANT TEACHER, RICHLAND HEADSTART

- Assisted with the implementation and modification of early childhood learning programs.
- Kept an updated inventory of classroom supplies and educational toys/games.
- Provided encouragement and support to each child and worked to resolve any issues.
- Maintained assessments of each child's progress, including personal observations.
- Prepared lesson plans tailored to the unique needs of each child in the program and ensured that they fit in with the required curriculum.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

**AUGUST 2023 – MAY 2025
BERKELEY, CA**

CO-CHAIR OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, UC BERKELEY SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

- Reviewed and evaluated doctoral program applications, assessing candidates' academic qualifications, research experience, and alignment with program values.

**AUGUST 2025 – PRESENT
OAKLAND, CA**

MENTOR, OAKLAND PROMISE

- Served as a trusted advisor to an Oakland Promise Scholar, supporting their post-secondary planning and career exploration through regular meetings, skill-building conversations, and network access.

- Leveraged personal and academic experience to build a relationship of trust and encouragement, helping the mentee navigate college-choice decisions, financial aid considerations, and identity as a first-generation student.

JUNE 2025 – PRESENT
BERKELEY, CA

BOARD MEMBER, STUDENT LEADERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

- Advise senior campus leadership on graduate student life, engagement, and belonging with a focus on inclusive and culturally conscious practices.
- Participate in monthly meetings to evaluate and enhance campus traditions, student leadership ecosystems, and engagement initiatives.
- Serve as a representative voice for underrepresented graduate student populations, including first-gen, student parents, and students of color.

MAY 2025 – PRESENT
BERKELEY, CA

STUDENT-2-STUDENT (S2S) REPRESENTATIVE, EARLY CHILDHOOD POLICY IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (ECPIHE)

- Represent student voice in national conversations around early childhood policy in higher education.
- Participate in professional development and networking opportunities focused on advancing equity and inclusion in early childhood systems.
- Support efforts to strengthen university-based early childhood policy programs through peer collaboration and feedback.

DECEMBER 2024 – PRESENT
BERKELEY, CA

DIVERSITY AFFAIRS CHAIR, STUDENT AFFILIATES IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY (SASP); AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION – DIVISION 16

- Spearhead initiatives to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within SASP and the broader school psychology community.
- Develop and implement programs to support underrepresented graduate students, including mentorship opportunities and professional development workshops.
- Collaborate with SASP leadership and APA Division 16 members to advocate for BIPOC representation and culturally responsive practices in school psychology.
- Oversee the BIPOC Equity in School Psychology Training (BEST) Scholarship, including managing application processes, selecting recipients, and ensuring funding supports initiatives that promote equity in school psychology training.

DECEMBER 2024 – PRESENT
BERKELEY, CA

ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY INTEREST GROUP COORDINATOR, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

- Coordinate initiatives to engage students and professionals in advocacy and public policy efforts related to school psychology.

- Organize events, webinars, and campaigns to educate members on critical policy issues, such as access to mental health services, educational equity, and trauma-informed practices in schools.
- Develop resources and communication materials to support members in their advocacy efforts at the local, state, and national levels.

AUGUST 2024 – PRESENT

BERKELEY, CA

CO-COORDINATOR, UC BERKELEY BLACK GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

- Co-coordinated events and initiatives for the Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA), supporting the academic, professional, and social development of Black graduate students.
- Collaborated with leadership and members to organize programs focused on fostering community, providing resources, and advocating for the needs of Black graduate students.
- Led outreach efforts to connect Black graduate students with academic support, mentorship opportunities, and career development resources.
- Promoted a positive and inclusive environment by facilitating discussions, workshops, and networking events to empower Black graduate students within the UC Berkeley community.

AUGUST 2024 – PRESENT

BERKELEY, CA

MENTOR, NEXTGEN PSYCHOLOGY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- Mentored and supported undergraduate students in the NextGen Psychology Scholars Program (NPSP), guiding academic success, professional development, and career pathways in psychology.
- Facilitated individual mentoring sessions, helping students develop critical thinking, research skills, and strategies for success in graduate programs.
- Advised on research opportunities and assisted mentees in navigating the application process for internships, fellowships, graduate school, and other academic opportunities.
- Fostered a supportive and inclusive environment by offering advice on balancing academic and personal challenges, promoting students' holistic development.

AUGUST 2023 – MAY 2025

BERKELEY, CA

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE, UC BERKELEY SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

- Reviewed and evaluated doctoral program applications, assessing candidates' academic qualifications, research experience, and alignment with program values.
- Contributed to selection decisions by providing insights during admissions meetings and advocating for diverse and underrepresented applicants.
- Collaborated with faculty and staff to ensure a fair and equitable admissions process aligned with program goals and priorities.
- Enhanced transparency by offering student perspectives on program culture and expectations to prospective candidates.

AUGUST 2023 – PRESENT
BERKELEY, CA

STUDENT LEADER, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

- Advocated for student engagement by organizing initiatives to promote professional development, networking, and leadership opportunities for school psychology students.
- Facilitated communication between NASP leadership and student affiliates, ensuring students' voices were represented in national discussions and decision-making.
- Coordinated events and resources focused on enhancing students' understanding of NASP's mission, ethical standards, and best practices in school psychology.
- Mentored and supported peers in navigating NASP resources, convention opportunities, and leadership pathways within the organization.

FEBRUARY 2024
NEW ORLEANS, LA

CONVENTION ASSISTANT, NASP ANNUAL CONVENTION

- Provided logistical support at the NASP annual convention, assisting with event coordination, session management, and attendee engagement.
- Facilitated smooth operations by managing registration, guiding attendees, and troubleshooting on-site issues to ensure a positive experience for participants.
- Supported presenters and speakers with technical setup and session facilitation, ensuring adherence to schedules and conference guidelines.
- Promoted NASP's mission by serving as a resource for attendees, answering programming questions, and connecting participants to relevant resources.

JULY 2020 – MARCH 2021
NASHVILLE, TN

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (VOLUNTEER), CASA NASHVILLE

- Interacted with children to understand their needs and concerns.
- Developed case plans and monitored case status periodically.
- Participated in case conferences with program directors and educational and mental health professionals.
- Wrote and maintained complete and in-depth records of all information gathered from children, family members, teachers, and other essential parties in a child's life.
- Provided information for court hearings and ensured all case facts were presented.

JUNE 2018 – AUGUST 2020
NASHVILLE, TN

RESIDENT ADVISOR, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

- Developed a positive living environment for residents by emotionally supporting students and resolving conflicts.
- Implemented and enforced all college and campus living policies, promoted academic excellence, addressed student needs, and encouraged involvement in campus activities.
- Created, marketed, and led student-centered hall programs to promote social, education, diversity, health, emotional understanding, and growth.
- Assisted in the selection, evaluation, and training of incoming resident advisors.
- Budgeted and allocated money used for residence hall and floor events.

JANUARY 2019 – AUGUST 2019

NASHVILLE, TN

VOLUNTEER DOULA, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

- Provided emotional and physical support to pregnant mothers, partners, and families before the birth process.
- Facilitated communication between birthing parties by providing education on labor progress, pain management techniques, and comfort measures.
- Created a safe space for all birthing parties to feel comfortable expressing themselves.

NOVEMBER 2018 - FEBRUARY 2019

NASHVILLE, TN

ASSISTANT BASKETBALL COACH, KIPP NASHVILLE

- Developed the physical, socio-emotional, and communication skills of a group of fifteen third-grade boys' basketball players.
- Assisted the head coach with daily duties.
- Conducted and supervised team practices and training sessions.
- Provided continual motivation to student athletes and instructed players on accurate basketball techniques.

MAY 2018 - AUGUST 2018

NASHVILLE, TN

CRISIS HOTLINE VOLUNTEER, FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, NASHVILLE

- Responded to high-risk incoming calls from individuals in acute distress, including cases of suicidal ideation, domestic violence, substance abuse, and severe mental-health challenges, providing immediate, compassionate support.
- Delivered non-judgmental, empathetic, active listening and emotional support, helping callers feel heard and validated while reducing feelings of isolation or hopelessness.
- Monitored and triaged high-risk scenarios (e.g., suicidal ideation, child-safety concerns, domestic violence incidents), adhered to escalation protocols, and alerted supervisors when immediate intervention or outside emergency services were required.
- Maintained accurate and timely documentation of each call, providing detailed narrative summaries, tracking crisis indicators, and recording follow-up recommendations to support continuity of care.

JULY 2020 – MARCH 2021

NASHVILLE, TN

COFOUNDER AND LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER, VANDERBILT INTENTIONAL DIVERSITY EXPERIENCE (VIDE)

- Created structured and informal opportunities for students at Vanderbilt University to engage in meaningful conversations and meaningful experiences with individuals outside of the typical demographics of their friendship circles.
- Coordinated one-on-one interactions and campus events between vide partnerships and groups that encouraged partners to learn more about the culture of their partner.
- Attended and helped run monthly meetings about the events and progress of the club.
- Provided feedback on how to improve and recruit more members of the club.

RESEARCH

AUGUST 2023 – PRESENT

BERKELEY, CA

RESEARCH GROUP, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

- Engage in collaborative research by reviewing manuscripts and providing constructive feedback on colleagues' research to ensure quality, accuracy, and clarity.
- Submit original research manuscripts for peer review, contributing to the development and dissemination of scholarly work within the field.
- Assist in refining research methodologies, offering insights and suggestions to enhance the rigor and relevance of ongoing studies.
- Participate in group discussions on research trends, findings, and methodologies, fostering a collaborative environment for scholarly growth.
- Engage in data analysis for a variety of research projects using statistical software (STATA, SPSS)

MAY 2019 – MAY 2021

NASHVILLE, TN

HONORS THESIS RECIPIENT / RESEARCH ASSISTANT, VANDERBILT SEA LAB

Honors Thesis: Examining Correlates of Intrusive Parenting (Advisor: Dr. Kathryn Humphreys)

- Led a project that utilized data from a larger ongoing experiment to investigate a previously overlooked potential relationship between intrusive parenting behaviors, empathy, and experiencing maltreatment in one's own childhood.
- Called potential participants to screen for eligibility for participation.
- Trained and managed research assistants and completed administrative tasks.
- Collected data from children and parents by running and observing parent—child interaction sessions.
- Coded, managed, cleaned, and analyzed data.

MAY 2018 – MAY 2019

NASHVILLE, TN

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, VANDERBILT SEA LAB

- Assisted in the recruitment and retention of children aged three to five and their primary caregivers in the greater Nashville area.
- Designed and performed video interventions for parents related to intentional reading.
- Coded and analyzed observational data from parent—child interaction videos.
- Helped schedule and run participant sessions.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Azuka, E. (2025, April). *Preparing undergraduates for graduate school: Healthcare field*. Panelist at Berkeley Graduate Diversity, University of California, Berkeley, CA. (Virtual).

Azuka, E. (2025, March). *Navigating academic conferences*. Panelist at Berkeley School of Education Research Day, University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Azuka, E. (2024, November). *Time management and self-care in graduate school*. Panelist at the National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention. (Virtual)

Agarwal, A., & **Azuka, E.** (2024, Aug). Working with Abused and Neglected Students. Poster presented at the American Psychological Association (APA) Annual Convention, Seattle, Washington.

Azuka, E. & Humphreys, K.L. (2021, May). *Examining correlates of intrusive parenting*. Poster Presented at Vanderbilt University's Undergraduate Research Fair, Nashville, TN.

Azuka, E. & Humphreys, K.L. (2021). Examining Correlates of Intrusive Parenting. [Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Vanderbilt University.] Vanderbilt University Institutional Repository. <https://ir.vanderbilt.edu/handle/1803/17543>

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS (NASP)

BLACK SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY NETWORK (BSPN)

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION - DIVISION 16 (APA)