

9 March 2020

The Goucher College Library &  
The Friends of the Goucher College Library  
1021 Dulaney Valley Road  
Baltimore, MD 21204

Dear Julia Rogers Research Prize Committee:

Please accept this letter as supporting documentation for the Julia Rogers Research Prize in the graduate level category. I have submitted a research paper entitled “*Adverse Childhood Experiences: Childhood Trauma as a Source of Health and Educational Disparities*” for consideration for the Prize. This project was submitted as part of ED 631: Psychological and Social Characteristics of At-Risk and Diverse Learners in the summer of 2019. My advisor for this paper was Prof. Tammi Coit, M.Ed.

The goal of the course was to undergo an in-depth study of the various psychological and social characteristics of children who are at risk of not achieving their full potential. As part of the course, we studied these factors as they influence students across developmental stages in early/elementary, middle, and high school learning years. As a culminating project for the course, I selected a current topic of relevance for children and their educational outcomes, and the topic of adverse childhood experiences is something that I have studied since my undergraduate years as a public health minor.

The research approach for this paper was guided by previous findings from the field of public health in terms of determining trends of health outcomes, as well as findings from the education, sociology, and psychology fields. The combination of knowledge and findings from these diverse fields of study was helpful in reaching an understanding of how adverse childhood experiences develop and how they affect children later on in life.

Extensive work was done performing literature research, analyzing of primary and secondary sources, communicating with faculty mentor for guidance and to keep track of project progress, and, lastly, writing a thorough, original research paper to show my understanding of this topic as it affects the lives of children across the United States.

The Goucher College Library was crucial in helping the research process throughout the duration of this course in the summer of 2019. Availability of library hours and librarians during the summer helped me to guide my research on the topic in a more focused and organized manner. Just as important to completion of this project was the accessibility of academic journals online that had a plethora of articles at my disposal to truly get a wide variety of perspectives on the topic.

My understanding of the research process was also expanded as I found most of the steps to be part of an iterative process. The cycle of moving parts was one of the biggest challenges to developing a more focused essay, but the help that I was offered by the Goucher College Library

helped me to clearly define my thesis and develop a coherent paper that was supported by the best sources available on the topic.

This project is a culminating piece of work that covers the breadth of knowledge, experiences, and interdisciplinary learning that I have obtained as a graduate student at Goucher College.

This work is deserving of the Julia Rogers Research Prize in the graduate category because it portrays deep understanding and proposes ideas for prevention and intervention in order to tackle a real-life threat to the well-being of students in the United States and across the world and, thus, shows the potential of academic work produced by students at Goucher College.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrés Córdoba Arroyo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name below it.

Andrés F. Córdoba Arroyo