

February 28, 2011

**Center for Excellence
in Rural Health**

Hazard

University of Kentucky
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Hazard, KY 41701

Phone: (606) 439-3557

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1-800-851-7512

www.mc.uky.edu/ruralhealth

Dear Prospective Bridges Scholar:

I am writing because you have been identified as a prospective applicant to participate in an exciting new program funded by the National Institute of Health and delivered here in Hazard. The Appalachian Bridges to Success Program is designed to support talented local students interested in the biomedical and behavioral sciences as they transition from community college to their baccalaureate program. Our hope is to cultivate students with an interest in improving their community, so that when they complete their education they will bring their skills and knowledge back to their respective communities.

In order to accomplish this, we want to provide each Bridges Scholar with the supportive services and academic skills that will allow each participant to be successful in his or her chosen specialty. To achieve this goal, we will provide the following:

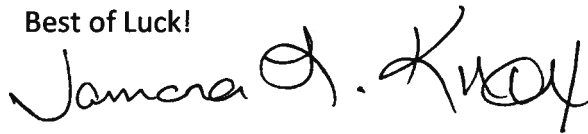
- Mentoring by local professionals (e.g. physicians, researchers, psychologists, physical therapists, and pharmacists,) to provide exposure and guidance in career decision making
- Full financial support for you to attend scientific conferences to broaden your introduction into your field of interest. This type of networking will allow you to develop critical contacts within your selected professional community.
- Classes and workshops to provide you with the knowledge and skills to share with like-minded professionals.

Of course, the application of this knowledge is also critical, so a central focus for our program is to introduce you to research activities. These research activities will be funded through a university student stipend, so that each participant has the opportunity to develop skills critical to the biomedical and behavioral professions while earning money to supplement his or her income.

In addition to these experiences, the Bridges program will provide you with career assistance such as interviewing and resume writing skills, test taking skills, and even guidance in choosing a career that best suits your respective talents, skills and abilities. We will work with you to improve your ACT scores to enhance your eligibility for scholarships, in order to accomplish your career goals. We will also work with participants in dealing with family conflicts, financial obstacles, and other barriers to construct that bridge to a successful future. As a professional from Eastern Kentucky, I believe this program has the potential to make a difference in both our communities and the lives of our students, but it will take the dedication and commitment of our program faculty and our selected Bridges Scholars.

If you have an interest in being a part of this program, please complete the attached application and forward it, along with a copy of your college transcript, to Ellen Napier at UK Center for Excellence in Rural Health, 750 Morton Blvd., Hazard, KY 41701. If you have any questions, please contact Ellen at 1-800-851-7512 or you may email her at ejspen@email.uky.edu.

Best of Luck!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamara L. Knox". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "K".

Tamara L. Knox, PsyD
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