**Cierra Nicole Cross**

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**Research Interest**

I am developing a pipeline project within Tennessee State’s Occupational Therapy Department to increase enrollment and recruitment of undergraduate students. My interests include women’s health within the occupational therapy profession and advocating for new mothers as they embark upon new societal roles. I am interested in conducting research in this area to test the effects of postpartum women receiving OT services on their physical and mental health compared to those who do not receive therapeutic services.

**Education**

Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama

August 2019- May 2023

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee

Present

**Teaching Experience**

Teaching Fellowship

AmeriCorps Breakthrough Atlanta—Atlanta, GA

* Develop and implement innovative teaching strategies to engage and inspire students from underrepresented communities in the Atlanta area.
* Collaborate with program staff to develop and implement enrichment activities that align with the curriculum.
* Create and maintain a positive and inclusive classroom environment that supports the social-emotional well-being of students.
* Conduct regular assessments and evaluations of student progress to inform instructional practices and identify areas for improvement.

**Internships**

Public Health Ethics Intern

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Atlanta, GA

* Collaborate with CDC officials to implement a comprehensive public health ethics framework to address a public health issue.
* Researched public health ethics frameworks to apply to a public health question.
* Conduct literature reviews on public health ethics topics to inform decision-making processes and policy development.
* Develop and deliver presentations on public health ethics to CDC officials and external stakeholders to raise awareness and promote ethical decision-making concerning the COVID-19 pandemic.

Program Intern

Black Girls Do STEM—St. Louis, MO

* Explored and evaluated research on specific STEM careers to create personal career ladder templates for the program.
* Created a supplemental career ladder template to accompany the Black Girls Do STEM curriculum.
* Collaborate with the founder of the program to create additional learning materials and community outreach projects.
* Assist with the coordination and implementation of program events and activities, including workshops, mentorship sessions, and networking events.
* Conduct research on current trends in STEM education and recommend updates to the Black Girls Do STEM curriculum based on the findings.

**Professional Memberships**

* American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)
* Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association (TNOTA)
* Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD)

**Honors and Awards**

Tuskegee Achievement Scholarship August 2019 –May 2023

Panda Cares Scholar October 2020—May 2023

Samuel Newhouse Endowment Scholarship September 2019 –May 2023

UNCF United Health Foundation Fellowship Present

APEX Fellowship Present