

# Connections Day School

SINCE 1998 ~ SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER 25 YEARS  
ADDRESS: 31410 NORTH US HIGHWAY 45 | LIBERTYVILLE, ILLINOIS 60048

## POPULATION SERVED

- ❖ **Children & Adolescents** with Special Education Eligibilities (Emotional & Behavioral Challenges) **and their Families**
- ❖ Individuals struggling with mild to severe: depression & related mood disorders; anxiety disorders; disruptive, impulse-control & conduct disorders; trauma & stressor related disorders; substance-related & addictive disorders; neurodevelopmental disorders; obsessive-compulsive disorders; psychotic disorders; and personality disorders.
- ❖ CDS Students and their families are diverse in age, culture, ethnicity, race, religion, socioeconomic status, gender identity and sexual orientation.

## TRAINING POSITIONS

- ❖ 5 Therapy Externs (MA, Intermediate or Advanced)
- ❖ 3 Doctoral Interns (APA Accredited Site)
- ❖ 3 Post-Doctoral Fellows



## POST-DOCTORAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ Daily opportunities for Individual, Group, Family & Milieu Therapy and Crisis Intervention
- ❖ 1 hour of Individual Supervision, 2.5 hours of Group Supervision and Didactic Training per week (most with full-time, on-site Supervisors)
- ❖ Monthly Family Therapy Seminar & Consultation
- ❖ Monthly Psychiatric Consultation
- ❖ Provide Auxiliary Supervision to Externs
- ❖ Optional Animal-Assisted Therapy with our Staff Therapy Dogs
- ❖ Participation in Multidisciplinary Individualized Education Program (IEP) Meetings for the students on your caseload
- ❖ Working as a Valued Member of a Multidisciplinary Team which includes: Special Education Teachers, Restorative Intervention Specialists, a Psychiatrist, Art Therapist, Substance Abuse Specialist, Occupational Therapist, Speech & Language Pathologist, Transition Specialist, and other well-established Psychologists & Professionals in the Field

## FELLOWSHIP FORMAT & BENEFITS

- ❖ **\$53,000 Stipend**
- ❖ Optional Healthcare, Dental and 401K benefits
- ❖ Initial 12 month commitment, with the possibility of continuing on within the Connections Organization | Start Date: early-August
- ❖ Average individual therapy caseload of 10 students, and 4-5 groups per week
- ❖ Hours: 8:00am – 4:00pm | 16 Paid Sick Days and 2 Personal Days for the year
- ❖ Vacation Time: Thanksgiving, Winter, Spring & Summer Breaks, all National Holidays, and a modified Summer Schedule (4 days per week - M–Th - for the last 5 weeks of the school year)
- ❖ No pager, crisis line or on-call duties
- ❖ Laptop Computer
- ❖ Free lunch available daily from Organic Life (see CDS website for sample menu)
- ❖ Free parking
- ❖ Access to a Clinical Library of books & manuals, and therapeutic resources & supplies
- ❖ Monthly allowance for therapeutic supplies and student incentives
- ❖ Clinical Team & All Staff Appreciation events, outings and activities throughout the year 😊

## SPECIALIZED DIDACTIC TRAINING TOPICS

- ❖ Diagnosis & Treatment of Complex Child & Adolescent Mental Health Presentations
- ❖ Working Collaboratively & Proactively as Part of a Restorative Therapeutic Milieu
- ❖ Legal & Ethical Issues when Working with Children, Adolescents & Families
- ❖ Equity, Inclusion & Multicultural Competence
- ❖ Strength-Based Treatment Approaches
- ❖ Occupational Therapy & Sensory Processing
- ❖ Working in a Trauma-Informed School
- ❖ Evidence-Based Treatment Approaches
- ❖ Individual, Group & Family Art Therapy
- ❖ Individual & Family Substance Abuse Tx
- ❖ Autism Spectrum Disorder & Neuropsych
- ❖ Imposter Phenomenon, Compassion Fatigue & Burnout
- ❖ Complex Trauma, PTSD & EMDR
- ❖ The Special Education System & Individualized Education Programs (IEP)
- ❖ Data Collection, Progress Monitoring & Outcome Measurements



## LEAD CLINICAL TRAINING STAFF

Kristen Mittl Pollina, Psy.D., CCTP  
Clinical Director & Director of Clinical Training  
Licensed Psychologist & Certified Clinical Trauma Professional  
E-Mail: [kpollina@connectionsdayschool.net](mailto:kpollina@connectionsdayschool.net)

Giovanna Vitullo, Psy.D., CCTP  
Diagnostic Program Director & Clinical Supervisor  
Licensed Psychologist & Certified Clinical Trauma Professional  
E-Mail: [gvitullo@connectionsdayschool.net](mailto:gvitullo@connectionsdayschool.net)

For more information please contact Dr. Pollina, and/or see our Website: [www.connectionsdayschool.net](http://www.connectionsdayschool.net)