

Jyoti Kolodziej, Ph.D., NCSP

5375 Oak Hill Court, Rockford, IL 61109

(M) 847-716-0356 • (E) jyotikolodziej@gmail.com • (W) www.jyotikolodziej.com

A drive to effectively influence clients in their endeavors toward health, education, and happiness guides me in the field of psychology. My current professional goals represent a continuation of my longstanding interest in advocating for individuals who are overlooked by mainstream society, which will benefit all of my clients.

Multiple experiences have provided me valuable preparation for a career in professional psychology. As an undergraduate, I served as Editor-in-Chief for a women's rights magazine that focused on minorities' and women's issues. This leadership experience at the magazine allowed me to act on my desires to project a voice for those that could not be heard, while educating through the media.

Following graduation, I experienced increased awareness of the need for advocacy in support of individuals from low-income backgrounds. First, my work as a journalist for a newspaper with an international audience has prepared me for a career in psychology. I focused on social and political issues, such as the difficulties for individuals in low-SES situations to meet their academic potential because of health, safety, and financial concerns. Second, my volunteer work as a media liaison with a domestic violence shelter led me to discover that there was little support for children victimized by domestic or community violence and that the need for psychological intervention is high. These experiences, paired with my commitment to advocate for overlooked populations, motivated me to pursue a career in psychology.

Throughout my graduate program and my professional experiences, I have worked successfully with diverse populations, including clients in preschool through adulthood with mild to severe disabilities. I have conducted a range of academic and behavioral evaluation activities as part of both school-based and clinic-based practicum experiences. Additionally, I have supported implementation of classroom modifications and interventions for clients with mild to severe disabilities. One particularly valuable clinical experience has been working with the diverse and high-need population at a residential facility that serves clients with severe mental illnesses. I have been involved with a variety of daily challenges that required creative problem-solving, enabled my professional growth, and helped me to develop skills upon which I can rely in the field of professional psychology.

I have been privileged to serve clients via response-to-intervention (RTI) across multiple school districts. I participated in evaluating students who were making inadequate RTI progress. These experiences have included universal screening, progress-monitoring, implementing, and supervising implementation of a comprehensive reading intervention program.

Through my range of professional experiences, I have come to value exploration of the factors contributing to clients' cognitive, emotional, and behavioral development across home, social, and school environments. I believe that both positive and negative environments impact a client's behavior, personality, cognitive development, and academic achievement. As such, I am committed to developing goals and advocating plans to benefit those who are underserved within our current social and educational systems. I believe my leadership experiences and acquired professional skills in psychology are apparent in my work.