

November 29, 2023

I would like to say it is with great pleasure that I apply for the Dr. Marion B. Pollock Fellowship. This illustrious fellowship will help address future educational and professional plans as well as a discussion of financial need. Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Jakeina Sutton, and I currently live in Durham, NC and second year Master of Public Health graduate student, at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Bringing personal and professional experiences that allowed me to have the ability to enhance my education and other professional skills. Formally employed as a long-term special needs substitute teacher at Wendell Middle School located in Wendell, NC.

I held the responsibility of working with children who experienced difficult educational challenges. I was able to maintain a healthy rapport with each child, while incorporating my warm personality to ensure that each child felt safe and secure in their education. As a middle school special needs educator, I played a critical role in easing students' anxieties and helping them through this formative time. Succeeding means honoring your students' perceptions and supporting them on their journey through the middle school years. Middle school special education students deserve to understand their disability. Many are very aware they are in "special ed." They know they learn differently, but they don't understand why. Sadly, many teachers and parents fear making students feel bad, so they don't teach them about their disabilities. I honored my students by talking openly with them and educating them about their differences. Students with special needs need teachers to be honest and help them understand and capitalize on their strengths. I also introduce students to role models or videos to inspire them and provide hope and motivation.

My forthcoming in my work ethic and humble in my achievements I remained eager to learn and develop in my education receptive to the teaching I endure from others. Creating a non-profit organization or health program, catering to people who need assistance with multiple health issues or concerns. Teaching the community how to utilize the resources that are available to them. I think this is the best way I can maximize their knowledge. In my professional perspective I know that we can change the trajectory and longevity within this community when confronted with the right educational and financial resources. Structured instruction in special education is an excellent way for special needs community up for success. Creating a unique work system with a clear sequence allows us to stick to a routine, and always look for new ways to supplement new plans and resources.