**Dr. Marion B. Pollock Scholarship Essay**

Throughout my career, my commitment to health education for children and youth has been a driving force. Beginning as an elementary teacher, I recognized the importance of foundational health knowledge in young learners' lives. My experience as a youth services librarian deepened this commitment, allowing me to connect children with engaging health resources and programs that fostered an early understanding of wellness. Now, as a librarian and instructor at a medical school, I bring this passion to a broader platform, teaching future health professionals while working to bridge gaps in health education for younger populations through community outreach and interprofessional education initiatives.

My professional goals in health education and promotion center on empowering youth with the knowledge they need to make informed health choices. I am particularly focused on developing accessible, culturally relevant health resources that resonate with diverse communities. I believe that fostering health literacy from a young age can lead to healthier communities and reduce disparities in health outcomes. Additionally, my role as a medical educator allows me to mentor students who will become health advocates and educators, ensuring that the next generation of professionals is equipped to communicate health concepts effectively to young audiences.

Looking ahead, my current and future activities are closely aligned with advancing the health education of children and teens. I am particularly excited about an ongoing project to develop a health education activity booklet for children visiting a medical-student-run free clinic. This booklet, designed with Spanish-speaking children and their caregivers in mind, is a tool to introduce young patients to important health concepts in a fun and accessible way. I believe that engaging children with culturally relevant resources can significantly improve their understanding of health topics and empower them to take ownership of their health. I also work closely with educators to incorporate health literacy into early childhood education settings, ensuring that even the youngest learners receive age-appropriate health information. I hope to expand this project to develop training resources for teachers and community educators that highlight best practices in engaging children with health topics.

I am immensely grateful to work in a field that combines education and healthcare. By continuing to work on projects that merge health literacy with hands-on education, I aim to make health information more accessible to children, particularly those in underresourced communities. This scholarship will support my education needed to create programs that are both innovative and impactful, ensuring that adolscents have the resources they need to lead healthier lives. I am committed to advancing the field of health promotion and I believe that through my unique skillset in teaching, community engagement, and research, I can make a lasting difference in the health education of future generations.