

Amanda Harris

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Dear Selection Committee:

My nursing background left me with a lifelong desire to empower others through education. Throughout my career in healthcare, I often found myself actively participating in this sphere. In addition to assuming responsibility for the care and education of my patients and their families, I frequently supported the training and guidance of my nursing colleagues. And when I encountered a lack of instructional material and methodology, I responded by independently proposing projects and creating necessary materials. My ambition to become a leader in education led me to pursue a master's degree. In December 2023 I graduated from the Master's in Instructional Science and Technology program at California State University, Monterey Bay, with an intimate understanding of the learning theory, design, and technologies utilized to deliver effective education.

I strive to identify gaps and work to fill them. When I noted a lack of educational materials upon my hire to the role of gastroenterology RN at CHLA, I coordinated with our education department to create family education handouts. When my subspecialty nursing team lost three of its members in a matter of months, I became the sole nurse managing gastroenterology motility patient care. I swiftly identified the need for staff education materials and created several training guides for nurses to refer to while orienting to motility procedures and tasks. Upon achieving Certified Pediatric Nurse status at CHLA, I volunteered to present a class preparing fellow nurses to sit for the neurology, dermatology, and infectious disease sections of the national exam. Just prior to beginning my graduate work I prepared and presented an outpatient nursing introductory training course to new CHLA nurse care manager hires. With the critical demand for education provision and up-to-date, research-based curricula to empower both patients and providers, I found my greatest sense of achievement when I identified and meaningfully addressed those needs.

The opportunities afforded to me in my graduate work have prepared me to take on a variety of design challenges. As a graduate assistant multimedia curriculum designer for the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Innovation Lab, I worked alongside education professionals to create interactive educational modules for learners. A summer project granted me the opportunity to assume the role of project manager for my team's client, the County of Monterey, as we designed job fair materials. In the role of teaching assistant, I independently developed interactive understanding check-ins, and provided individualized feedback to students. With the understanding of learning theory and educational technologies I have gained through these hands-on experiences, I am confident in my ability to proficiently construct the resources that best support the communities I hope to serve.

I would consider it a privilege to be welcomed as a member of a team that works to empower others through education. Thank you very much for your consideration.