

NPA Member Spotlight

March, 2024 – Student Member

The Nebraska
PSYCHOLOGICAL
Association



Gina May, NPA Graduate Student Representative

Gina is a 4th year doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology Training Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Before graduate school, Gina received her B.A. in psychology and then worked for two years as a post-baccalaureate research assistant. Her path to graduate school was generally inspired by working with youth and families in various settings and desire to make change at a broader level. In particular, she became motivated to pursue clinically-informed research as well as advocacy to improve services and systems to better support families, particularly underserved youth and families. Gina's current placement is at Bluestem Health, an integrated primary care setting, where she works as a Behavior Health Consultant, primarily in pediatrics.

Gina has been a member of NPA since her first year of graduate school, in 2021, when she received a gifted membership.

What's the most helpful piece of advice you have received?

I received advice early on to talk to anyone and everyone who had a job that I was interested in. I have done numerous informal informational interviews over the years, and they have not only given me guidance and helped shape my career path, but have also opened up opportunities. I am very grateful for all of the mentorship I have received!

What do you like to do when you aren't working? Any fun hobbies/interests?

When I'm not working, I love spending time with friends and family, especially playing games, going to concerts, and doing almost any type of event/ activity!

What is a project you're working on right now? Why is it meaningful to you?

I came to UNL to work with Dr. Dave Hansen and Project SAFE (Sexual Abuse Family Education), a clinical, research, and training program for youth who have experienced child sexual abuse and their families. Serving as a Project SAFE therapist and researcher has undoubtedly shaped my perspectives and goals, and it has been a privilege to work with Project SAFE families and wonderful co-therapists and supervisors.

Who/what inspires you?

I am inspired by the strength and resilience of all the clients I have had the opportunity to work with as well as my incredible three siblings, who consistently give me invaluable support and motivate me to make a difference for kids and families.

What do you like most about being a member? How has your career benefited from being a member?

I really enjoy getting exposure to many aspects of a career in psychology as well as having the opportunity to know other psychologists across the state. My career has benefited from my involvement in NPA in many ways, especially with participation on the legislative committee confirming my career interest in policy and bolstering those skills.

Do you now, or have you previously volunteered with NPA (board, committee, task force, etc.)?

I sit on the NPA board as the elected graduate student representative, and also volunteer with three committees: State Legislative Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, and the new DEI Committee. My involvement with NPA has been one of the most rewarding experiences!