

Bee Schindler, LMSW, Ed.D candidate, HSDEI Diversity Training Manager

By Karla Perelstine, Editor

Bee Schindler, licensed social worker and Doctoral of Education candidate, class of 2022, comes to the Office of Health Sciences Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (HSDEI) from the University of Pittsburgh Clinical and Translational Science Institute where they have held the role of Community Engagement Coordinator since 2018. In this position, through reciprocal approach, Bee has created opportunities for researchers to translate and disseminate their studies with communities for whom their research relates. Bee's attention to leveraging the lived experience in research as a way to disrupt health disparities was crucial to their position.

Bee has spent more than ten years working in the field of diversity and inclusion. Some programs they have worked with include those seeking systems-level change by lifting up the stories of adults and youth involved with the justice system; queer and gender-spectrum people; Haitian farmers and artists, and minoritized Black youth within school and summer programming settings. Bee's explicit attention to their own white privilege and intersecting identities has also led to working alongside other white people to examine their own power, learn to unlearn, and provide tools for humility.

Bee presently lives in Squirrel Hill with their spouse, Cait Garrity and four year old son, Jack. Bee describes themselves as an advocate who through contemplation wants to disrupt the injustices placed upon minoritized individuals. According to Bee, "We can do better in processing diversity and inclusion when we can both offer and occupy space to be vulnerable and transparent to humanize the health sciences in particular. And as we hold ourselves accountable to our power and privileges through positionality reflection, we also need the tools to put this humility into relevant practice." As a steward for social justice and equity, Bee hopes to be supportive in helping others identify their assets and impeding barriers to facets of injustice by encouraging methods of learning such as reflective journaling and storytelling.

Bee is excited to join the HSDEI team in the capacity of Training Manager and learn along with others how best to obliterate structural injustice. We are happy to have Bee as part of our team. Join me in welcoming Bee Schindler.