The Morningside Center Whole School Restorative Practices (RP) and Racial Equity (RE) Project is a randomized controlled trial (RCT) of a whole school discipline reform program based on integrating restorative practices, social emotional learning (SEL) curriculum, and racial equity conversations in 18 K-12 public schools in Brooklyn, NY. The whole school RP program is designed to build community among administrators, teachers, staff, students, and families within a school to strengthen relationships and reduce exclusionary discipline, like office discipline referrals and suspensions. Our program evaluation asks: Does the Whole School RP Project have a positive impact on reducing overall discipline referrals and especially reducing disparities in discipline referrals of Black, male, and special education students in elementary, middle, and high schools in a high needs district? RCT evaluation will be based on NYC school records of discipline, attendance, and achievement, as well as survey and interview data collected in the spring of each school year. Data will be collected using school-wide surveys for students and teachers to measure SEL competencies, perceptions of school climate, cultural competence, and experience using restorative practices.

The Rutgers Evaluation team is interested in recruiting highly motivated undergraduate research assistants to play a vital role in collecting data to evaluate the impact of the whole school RP & RE project. This is an outstanding opportunity for students interested in a large scale, multi-year research project and intervention focused on reducing punitive punishment and exclusionary discipline, closing the discipline gap for Black, male, and special education students, strengthening teachers’ and students’ SEL skills, and improving overall school climate. We seek students who can dedicate one day per week (Mondays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays) during the Spring to go to Brooklyn to help with survey administration in schools. We will travel together to Brooklyn by car; travel is included.

Objectives:
Undergraduate research assistants working with this project will:

- earn psych 300 level course credit
- gain research experience in a multi-year RCT in high-needs elementary, middle, and high schools
- assist in collecting research data, including teacher and student surveys
- contributing to the field of improving school climate, including racial equity and reducing discipline disparities
- work alongside psychology graduate students and create connections with faculty and staff at the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology at Rutgers

Requirements:
- Availability from 6am to 4pm (hours may vary) one day a week (Mondays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays) to go to Brooklyn to help administer surveys (travel is provided).
- Pass a background check and fingerprinting through NYC DOE in order to enter schools

Application:
Students interested in applying to participate in the Whole School RP Project should submit a completed application along with a current resume to Amy Oliveira (email below). The deadline is Sunday, November 10th, 2019. Applications can be found on Psychweb: https://psych.rutgers.edu/academics/undergraduate/forms

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