

## TENURE-TRACK HOPEFUL, Ph.D.

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March 23, 2008

Psycho Babble, Ph.D.  
Department of Psychology  
Liberal Arts College  
Anycity, YZ 12345

Dear Dr. Babble:

Please consider my application for the tenure-track appointment as Assistant Professor in Clinical Psychology at Liberal Arts College beginning Fall, 2008. I was excited to learn of this position because of Liberal Art's excellent academic reputation, the high caliber of its students, and the close match between the position and my background, interests and expertise. Having received my undergraduate degree (psychology major) from Ruraltown College, I have tremendous respect for the liberal arts tradition characterized by intellectual rigor, high-quality teaching, low student-faculty ratios, student-directed learning and early research involvement. Doctoral and postdoctoral training in child clinical psychology provides me with clinical and developmental expertise to suit this position. Moreover, I believe that I would be an ideal addition to your department based on my demonstrated record of excellent teaching and active cross-national research in Jamaican youth development and well-being.

It is my conviction that high quality undergraduate teaching is crucial to a successful undergraduate experience. My communication and presentation skills have been honed by diverse teaching experiences ranging from instructing Introductory Psychology courses to assistant teaching for a small advanced undergraduate seminar on Child Development and guest lecturing on Children's Social and Emotional Well-Being in a master's level course. Teaching online has complemented my classroom experiences – it has produced an extra level of creativity in my teaching and fine-tuned clarity and effectiveness of communication. I have also conducted numerous trainings for professional and community audiences on typical and atypical psychological development in children and adolescents. Please refer to my Teaching Philosophy for a fuller understanding of my creative and collaborative approach to undergraduate instruction.

I have clinical training and experience conducting psychotherapy and psychological testing in a variety of settings spanning the entire continuum of mental health care: a university psychological services center, community mental health center, child/adolescent outpatient hospital clinic, and locked inpatient psychiatric units for children and adolescents. I am currently involved in mental health prevention and early intervention as a Behavioral Health Consultant to urban and suburban child care/preschool centers and a Program/Clinical Consultant to local school and after-school settings implementing skill-building prevention programs. Further, I gained clinical supervision theory and practical experience as an advanced graduate student. I believe that the wealth and diversity of my clinical child/developmental training and experience uniquely equips me to contribute to the clinical/counseling area of the psychology program at Liberal Arts College.

As a woman of Color from a small Caribbean island I am committed to research in under-represented populations. My research interests center on self, identity, values and well-being in Jamaican children and adolescents. Specifically, I have investigated racial self-identification of Jamaican children versus U.S. children, academic self-beliefs of Jamaican high school students, and values and well-being among early, middle and late Jamaican adolescents. Several honors, published journal articles and conference presentations have resulted from this collective body of research and a number of additional manuscripts are under preparation. For example, I was selected as a junior scientist for the 2007 Brazil Workshop on Advancing Inter-American Collaboration in Human Development Research, Methodology, and Training hosted by the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD). Within the next two years I plan to continue data analysis and manuscript writing from a rich dataset I collected in Jamaica to examine the relations among adolescent personality values, conflict with parents and well-being. I also have interests in a new study on acculturation in Jamaican immigrant families in the U.S. I see promising links between my research and Dr. Researcher A's work investigating how values relate to well-being around the world, and the scholarly interests of Dr. Researcher B's (i.e., Black Psychology) and Instructor C (gender, stereotyping and prejudice).

The courses affiliated with this faculty position are ideal for me based on my clinical knowledge and my active child/adolescent-focused research program. In addition to theory/methods of psychotherapy and developmental psychology, advanced courses in child clinical psychology, the developing self and identity, school-based prevention and early intervention, and Caribbean/immigrant psychology would also be very appealing to me. I look forward to involving students in my research and mentoring them in developing their own projects having benefited myself from significant research opportunities as a student. For example, I can envision students investigating values and self-representations using a graphical measure I created for my dissertation research – the Identity Pie.

In summary, I strongly affirm Liberal Arts College's self-description as a diverse, independent, engaged and committed place "...where people from communities around the world can add their unique perspectives to the culture of the College<sup>1</sup>." Thus, I would be honored to join your academic community. I believe that my grounding in the liberal arts tradition, strong teaching skills, child clinical background and active cross-national research program make me a great match for this faculty position. Further, I am convinced that I would complement the existing strengths of the psychology department while bringing new and unique expertise.

Accompanying this letter, please find my curriculum vitae, teaching philosophy and copies of recent publications. At least three letters of reference are being mailed to your attention under separate cover. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any additional information I can provide that will be helpful in evaluating my application.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Tenure-Track Hopeful, Ph.D.

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<sup>1</sup> From "About Liberal Arts College" description on College website.