

Sir Aaron Mason

11/27/17

As a student in the Marriage and Family Therapy program I had the opportunity to apply and be awarded the prestigious AAMFT minority fellowship. My experience in the fellowship was very rewarding and I am thankful for the support of the faculty of the ULM's Marriage and Family Therapy program who encouraged me to apply.

During my tenure as an AAMFT minority fellow, I had the opportunity to advance my research interests of examining pertinent issues faced by marginalized groups. For the purpose of the fellowship, my research project consisted of examining the resiliency of members of the LGBTQ community as they encounter experiences of discrimination. My interest in this topic grew from own personal experiences of witnesses discrimination derived from heterosexual ideologies impact the mental and physical health of my oldest brother.

As an ally to the LGBTQ community, seeing the direct impact of discrimination on a family member along with me own experiences of encounter with discrimination instilled passion within in me to assist marginalized groups cope and overcome the effect of discrimination. Through my research and scholarship, I have focused on the experiences of student of color on predominately White campus of higher education, youth in foster care, therapist's perception of mandated clients who are adjudicated, co-parenting through divorce, and lastly the experiences of African American's therapist helping White clients.

As of recent, I am working towards completion of my dissertation and working for a Child Trauma Center in Springfield Oregon. I am enjoying every aspect of my job and being part of the fellowship has allowed me to build relationship with other students in the marriage and family therapy field. These relationships have been essential to my work with traumatized children whose voices are often marginalized.