

Meet Our Graduate Students...

Trans Collaboration is made possible in no small part due to the hard work and dedication of our Graduate Students. They are invaluable members of the Trans Collaborations team.



Natalie Holt
(She/Her/Hers)

Natalie Holt started as a graduate research assistant with Trans Collaborations in 2015. She is currently completing a clinical psychology internship year at the Medical College of Georgia focusing on LGBTQ and HIV health disparities. Though Natalie is away from Nebraska, she continues working on research papers with the Trans Collaborations team and also is studying the health experiences of LGBTQ populations in the underserved region of southeastern Georgia and South Carolina. In addition to research, Natalie is providing clinical services to TGD clients during their gender clinic appointments. Natalie will graduate from UNL with her PhD in clinical psychology in August 2021.



Zach Huit
(He/Him/His)

Zach studied as an undergrad psychology major at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and continued his doctoral education in the Clinical Psychology program. He is interested in understanding resilience and positive characteristics of youth and family environments to increase well-being for LGBTQ+ youth, as well as youth who have experienced trauma. Zach describes his role as a clinician-researcher-advocate, and believes that no good work can be done without understanding and advocating for the needs of the communities in which a professional is working.



Allura Ralston
(She/Her/Hers)

Allura received her master's degree in Psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2018 and is currently pursuing her PhD. She previously received her bachelor of arts degree in Psychology from Temple University. Broadly, Allura's research and clinical interests include understanding the mental health impacts of prejudice, discrimination, and non-affirmation for transgender and gender diverse communities. Additionally, she is interested in developing culturally responsive mental health treatments to combat these negative processes for TGD and other traditionally underserved communities.



Brenna Lash
(She/Her/Hers)

Brenna graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 2014 with her B.A. in City planning/Urban studies and from Boston University in 2016 with a Master in Public Health. She is currently engaged in research as a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her research interests include how to best conduct ethical, collaborative, and representative research with transgender and gender diverse participants, and improving access to quality mental health services among transgender populations.



Colton Nisley
(He/Him/His)

Colton graduated in 2019 with his B.S in Psychology and Biology from the University of Nebraska at Kearney and is currently pursuing his M.S.E. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling through the University of Nebraska at Kearney. As a Graduate Research Assistant under the supervision of Dr. Sharon Obasi, Colton is currently involved in research surrounding family resilience and has interest in issues surrounding LGBTQAI+ mental health and wellbeing.



Sage Volk
(She/Her/Hers)

Sage graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2020 with her B.A. in Psychology and minors in LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies and Women's & Gender Studies. Sage is broadly interested in investigating how support in various contexts either benefits or harms LGBTQAI+ individuals. She strives to understand in which ways social support can act as protective factor against negative effects of having a marginalized identity. Sage is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at UNL.

Trans Collaborations is a community-based partnership between transgender and gender diverse people (TGD) and academic researchers. Trans Collaborations began in 2014 out of a desire to improve health care services for TGD people in the Central Great Plains. It works to establish a network of researchers and communities focused on creating accountable research and resources for TGD communities in resource-limited areas.

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