

# COURTNEY CASTLEMAN

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I am a sociological researcher, program coordinator, and disability awareness trainer with a long record of service coordination and direct-care service for underserved students and families in the East Bay. With a strong commitment to social justice and education, I enjoy community building that creates and cultivates pathways forward in higher education.

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## EDUCATION

**Columbia University**, New York, NY 9/2018 – 5/2019

Master of Arts in Sociology

Thesis Topic: Students with invisible disabilities in higher education

- Received Graduate School of Arts and Science scholarship for outstanding candidacy
- Research Interests: Social Inequality, Education, Disability Justice, and Mixed Sociological Methodologies

**Mills College**, Oakland, CA 8/2016 – 5/2018

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Minor in Urban Education

Senior Thesis Topic: The struggles and victories of public school educators teaching students with Autism

- Phi Beta Kappa and GPA of 3.98
- Received prestigious Mill's Dean's Scholarship for academic excellence
- Mills College Academic Honors (Fall 2016, Spring 2017)

**Laney College & Berkeley City College**, Oakland/Berkeley, CA 8/2014 – 5/2016

- Elective focus in Sociology

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## EXPERIENCE

*Kinship Youth Program Aide & Coordinator*, **Family Support Services**, Oakland, CA 9/2019 - Present

- Provide mentorship, academic support, and counseling to foster-care youth aged 8-18 & Summer 2017

*Disability Awareness Trainer & Respite Care Coordinator*, **Family Support Services**, Oakland, CA 11/2015 - Present

- Creator and facilitator of Developmental Disability Training for providers in respite care and foster care programs
- Coordinate services between caseworkers, service-providers, and families in need
- Promptly organize client files, process funding, and assist in HIPPA, CPR, and First Aid compliance

*Respite Care Provider*, **Family Support Services**, Oakland, CA 12/2011 - Present

- Assist teenagers and young adults in home with severe autism and diverse learning differences
- Use ABA therapy and behavioral science to support sensory integration and academic growth
- Build strong long-lasting relationships with client and family members enabling families to stay intact

*Counselor & Advisor*, **Girls Leadership**, Oakland, CA July 2019

- Led a variety of activities for campers aged 13-17
- Taught History of Women in Music course and writing workshop
- Facilitated an advisory group covering topics in social justice and emotional awareness

*Volunteer*, **Roses in Concrete Community School**, Oakland, CA 02/2018 – 5/2018

- Utilized Participatory Action Research to strengthen afterschool programming

*Customer Service Representative, Buyer, and Promoter*, **Down at Lulus**, Berkeley, CA 11/2016 - 11/2017

- Scheduled customer/stylist appointments and promoted hair services on social media
- Operated register, iPad, and Square Point of Sale to process payments
- Created displays and merchandized vintage clothing

*Education Specialist*, **A Better Chance School**, San Pablo, CA 10/2010 - 11/2011

- Provided tutoring and personal assistance for students with various disabilities aged 6-22
- Supported student independence through community outings, workability training, and IEP implementation