

— GRADUATE TESTIMONY —  
Winter 2021 CABH Master's Graduate

## Tanisha Manning

Tanisha Manning completed the Master of Science degree program in Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health (CABH) with a focus on Youth & Behavioral Health. She started the CABH program in January 2020, right at the start of the global pandemic. At the time, Tanisha, like many of her peers, could not have anticipated how complex the challenges would be.

*“While going through my own personal struggles due to the pandemic, I watched how it affected the youth behavioral health community in real-time. However, with the help of my professors, academic advisors, and colleagues, I’ve grown into a skilled ESE intervention teacher serving children living with autism in the Tampa Bay area. My course work and field experience in this program has equipped me with the knowledge and skills to work professionally as an ESE educator.”*

As part of her field experience, Tanisha conducted research on the agency’s staff retention rates, and as a result, developed a New Employee Orientation training to address this specific need. She was involved in developing modifications to this onboarding model. In this way, the school had access to a suitable training program for new hires to improve retention rates, meet organizational goals, and deepen the understanding of ESE (Exceptional Student Education) practices and standards amongst staff.

Tanisha intends to continue working as an intervention teacher at the Florida Autism Center of Excellence, the agency where she completed her field experience.

