

# The Arc Tank

## PATHWAYS TO INCLUSIVE HEALTHCARE

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### INTRODUCTION

“Falling off the cliff” is a term often used to describe the precipitous transition from the educational system to adult human services. Yet, there is another cliff that is just as precarious — the transition from pediatrics to adult medical care. The unprecedented rate of individuals with ASD/IDD aging into adult services accentuates their health disparities due, in part, to a healthcare workforce that lacks adequate training and experience caring for those with ASD/IDD. Modeled after Teach for America, Pathways to Inclusive HealthCare (PIHC) will create a pipeline of healthcare professionals motivated and equipped to provide quality healthcare to this population.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Pathways to Inclusive HealthCare will be the most innovative, disruptive, impactful, and scalable program in the nation to train future healthcare professionals to work with the ASD/IDD population. Targeting pre-medical, dental, nurse practitioner and other pre-health professions students, PIHC will recruit recent college graduates (called Scholars) to a year-long program to work as paraprofessionals with individuals with ASD/IDD in practicum sites, such as day hab programs, Chapter 766 schools, and integrated classrooms. In the evenings, the Scholars will pursue a certificate program in a related field with one of our five University Partners and will also participate as a group in monthly seminars and field trips. Additionally, each Scholar will be paired with a mentor to guide the Scholar through the graduate school admissions process. During orientation, Scholars will receive the Registered Behavioral Technician™ training and credentials. After a planning period, we will commence a year-long pilot in August 2018 with 8-12 Scholars, expanding in subsequent years in Massachusetts and beyond. We believe that Pathways to Inclusive HealthCare will become a prestigious program that will attract some of the finest college graduates, spawning a pipeline of future healthcare practitioners who will make a difference in closing the health equity gap for those with ASD/IDD.