

Bring an open mind  
and joy into every  
decision you make,  
and you will flourish.



**AMBER NELSON**

DIRECTOR OF ARTS & EDUCATION

**How long have you been with The Arc of the Capital Area and what do you do here?**

I have been with the The Arc of the Capital Area for 2.5 years. I am the Director of the Arts & Education Program while also overseeing our volunteer program.

**What is your favorite thing about working for The Arc of the Capital Area?**

I enjoy the family atmosphere from our clients, staff and programs. I also love the new innovative programs The Arc of the Capital Area provides to the I/DD community.

**Where do you find your inspiration in your career?**

I find my inspiration from our clients and families. I am in awe of the drive that our families and clients we serve have and how they push our agencies as a whole to serve them in an inclusive, innovative manner.

## **How is your work with The Arc of the Capital Area inspiring change in the I/DD community?**

The work I am doing with The Arc of the Capital Area inspires change in the I/DD world by providing creative, exciting educational programs that are engaging to the students and the community as a whole.

## **Who is your hero and why?**

My uncle is my hero; he inspires me throughout my life to be a fantastic person. He is not only my champion but also pushes me to always be the best version of myself. My uncle is a change maker in his career, and seeing what he has to do for his community in his personal life has inspired me to be a better person for our community. He advocates for what is best for the community, missions he feels passionate about, and people throughout his life.

## **How do you represent our core values (Respect, Joy and Integrity) in the work you do with The Arc of the Capital Area?**

I represent our core values by bringing a positive look at our programs and client-centered work. Ensuring that everything is a person's centered strategy, and I am always approaching any client or situation with respect and integrity. Looking at the joy in any circumstances and ensuring there is laughter, happiness, and overall positivity resonating through the organization.



## **What's your favorite way to spend the weekend?**

If I could pick a perfect weekend, it would be waking up early and making waffles. Then continuing the day by going out hiking and swimming all day. I enjoy anything in nature and would much rather be out and hiking and exploring nature.

## **What has been your favorite project so far and why?**

My favorite project at The Arc of the Capital Area has been to expand the education program. Giving individuals in our community an opportunity to achieve education to further their lives. I have had a chance to teach our students how to navigate the computer; while doing so, we have had students learn necessary reading skills. When giving our community just a pilot of a program, the students and program exceeded our expectations.

## **What's one way you define success in your current position?**

My success has been defined in my current position by the success of our programs, clients, and the employees. When you see that moment of success - whether in education, artwork, social goals, or just excitement and inclusion in their life - you know that you are making changes in the community. As I work with the team to achieve these goals for our clients, I get to see the excitement and reward in them, which is ultimately a success.