

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



AMBER NELSON

DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT & 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.