



Meet Stacie Andrews

Commonwealth Technical Institute at the Hiram G. Andrews Center (CTI at HGAC) Director of Transition Programs

Tell us about your career journey.

I have been in the field of social services for over 30 years. I have a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in community counseling. Prior to working for CTI at HGAC, most of my experience was in private industry. I have done mental health therapy primarily with children and adolescents and psychometric testing with a large population of individuals, as well as working as the Director of Partial Hospitalization Programs within Cambria and Bedford Counties. At CTI at HGAC I have held several positions, starting in 2004 as a vocational evaluator, vocational evaluation unit supervisor in 2010 then to my current position as the Director of Transition Programs in 2012.

What do you like best about your job?

In my current role as a division manager I may not have as much one-on-one student interaction as previous positions; however, one of my favorite parts of my job is to see the literal change in our students from the days of their arrivals as vocational evaluation customers who may have never been away from home to watching the growth as they receive the supports our staff provide and the vocational training they receive. Some of my favorite days of the year are the graduation ceremonies and watching the pride in the eyes of the students, family and staff.

Who or what has helped you succeed in your career journey?

I think being open to learning and having a positive outlook has helped me over the years in my career.

What advice do you have for job seekers with disabilities?

My advice would be to know yourself and your abilities and interests because each of those have a role in helping you to find a job that you will succeed in. Also, my advice is to be both persistent and patient in your job search. Don't be afraid to start in a job that may not necessarily be your first pick but acknowledge it as one of the steps along your path to where you are going.

This year's NDEAM theme is Access to Good Jobs for All. What is one action you think others can do to help make a difference in this space?

Aside from employers being open to learning about hiring individuals with disabilities and all they can offer to an employer, I would also say that the co-workers of these individuals should realize how much of a positive impact they can have on another individual by simply being kind, inclusive and treating these individuals just as they would any other colleague.