

Success Stories: Vocational Rehabilitation



Julene Fowler



OCCUPATION:
Low Vision Office Specialist

VR COUNSELOR:
Lee Bingham, Provo District

VR PROVIDED ASSISTANCE:

- Vocational Counseling and Guidance
- Individualized Plan for Employment
- Job Search and Placement
- Paid WorkAbility Internship
- Assistance with Clothing and Transportation for Employment
- Medication Management for Restoration

Julene Fowler experienced a life-altering series of traumatic vehicle accidents that led her on a remarkable journey of recovery. These accidents not only changed the trajectory of her life, but also her ability to communicate, requiring her to relearn her speech skills.

In July 2021, Julene sought assistance from VR services. Her VR counselor, Lee Bingham, stepped in to support her as she pursued her goal of returning to employment as a receptionist. Julene's strong desire to assist others in achieving their individual goals made this career choice a perfect fit.

Working closely with her VR counselor, Julene developed an individualized employment plan that outlined the services necessary to overcome her barriers and ensure her success. This plan ultimately led to an internship as a front desk receptionist at the Provo VR office, where she honed her skills. Julene's exceptional performance did not go unnoticed, with visitors

frequently praising her friendly personality and the welcoming atmosphere she created.

Throughout this time, Julene continued her journey to regain skills from her earlier life challenges, while also addressing additional health needs with assistance from her medical provider. Her VR counselor, Choose to Work Specialist Claudia Knight, and the entire VR team played pivotal roles in supporting her.

With this support, she applied for, and was hired by the Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI) as a Low Vision Office Specialist. Julene loves the people she works with, including opportunities to interact with clients. Her determination to overcome obstacles has led to rewarding employment. In her own words, "As I reflect back on my experience, I really felt that the work ability intern position really helped me to get started in my future employment and I am grateful that my VR counselor encouraged me to apply."