

Tami McBride:

I had always been very interested in helping people deal with difficult situations. I am someone that feels like if you find purpose for those trials, you give meaning to them.

Speaker 2:

It's Not Just a Job, It's a Passion: Tami's Story.

Tami McBride:

I have been involved in social work since 2015, and I worked in behavioral health until December of last year, and then I was just ready for a change and so I started looking at state jobs and I just thought it would be a really good opportunity to help people.

I have mild cerebral palsy, which means that I learned to type with just one hand. My mother, actually before the ADA even, she found a one-handed typing program and had it brought into my high school for me, did it on a typewriter because I'm ancient.

So I also have multiple sclerosis and several other autoimmune conditions. I went on disability at the age of 26. I worked part-time the entire time because I'm just somebody who likes to work. I ran into trouble keeping jobs because I trained as a paralegal, but most law practices are small businesses, so their paralegals are also typing transcription, which I just cannot do because I have one hand.

So I ended up unemployed. I looked at the Ticket to Work program and they were able to pay for college. So I utilized my ticket to work and worked with Arizona's Vocational Rehabilitation and had my degree program paid for and pursued dual bachelor's and graduated in 2015.

So because I've been a client of Vocational Rehabilitation myself, I know what it's like to be on the other side. I know how stressful it is to be in a position where there's things happening in your body that are keeping you from achieving things that we all need to achieve to be successful in life. Every client I work with, I tell them I'm a graduate myself, and I can assure you this program works. If you utilize it and you take advantage of everything that we're offering, it can really make a huge difference in your life. I would not be where I am right now without Vocational Rehabilitation.