



November 2021

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The Focus

Why?
The
CESP™

Oregon Department of Human Services approves **APSE's Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP™)** credential to meet the training requirements for Employment Professionals. This credential recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a sufficient level of knowledge and skill to provide integrated employment services to a variety of populations. The **CESP™** credential is designed

for job developers & coaches, transition employment specialists, job placement personnel, and employment specialists/consultants who serve individuals with I/DD, mental health diagnoses, sensory impairments, physical disabilities, traumatic brain injury, and autism spectrum disorders. Currently, only three states have more than Oregon's 169 CESP's ([see list here](#)).



Congratulations to Adam Vozzola, Mariah Waite Calloway, Kristin Becker, and Jesse Taylor, Oregon's newest CESP's!

INITIAL APPLICATION: To get started on your **CESP™** you must meet all eligibility requirements upon application including a High School Diploma or the equivalent and Professional Work Experience with one of the following work experiences:

- One year of paid employment support professional (ESP) work experience that meets the Work Experience Definition below (up to 3 months internship time)
- Nine months of paid ESP work experience with additional training/internship that meets the Training Definition below:

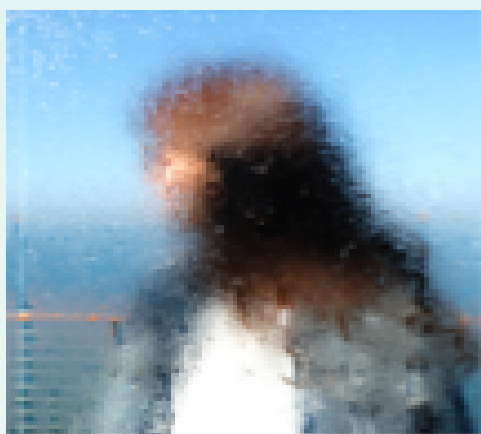




- An internship or practicum of at least 2 months in length and/or successful completion of an intensive training course that includes at least 32 hours of ESP-related course work. The content for acceptable training courses must be directly related to the CESP™ content outline. Acceptable training content is related to supported and customized employment as well as training relevant to providing employment and community-based supports to people with disabilities. Examples of acceptable training content include but are not limited to: specialized training to work with specific disability groups (i.e. autism or mental illness), training on small business development, American with Disabilities Act (ADA) training, benefits counseling, and strategies for job development. Training related to segregated employment services or services that are not widely considered to be best practices will not be accepted.

RECERTIFICATION: If you are already a **CESP™**, congratulations! An easy way to continue your professional growth development, and uphold your national CESP credential is to recertify every 3 years. Since the CESP exam is now online and at testing proctored exam sites, it's easier than ever. For recertification, learn more here: <https://apse.org/recertification-by-ce-credits-updates/>. Recertification requires each CESP submit 36 hours of approved Continuing Education (CE) that outlines the approved training criteria and APSE core competencies. <https://cesp.helpscoutdocs.com/article/653-types-of-approved-ce-activities>. Be a part of this growing network of certified Oregonians!

The CESP™ certification program is overseen by the Employment Support Professional Certification Council (ESPCC), established by the APSE Board of Directors. We are fortunate to have the expertise of ORAPSE Board Member/ESPCC member, Emily Harris as a local resource. See Emily emily@gowise.org and APSE National Staff, Kari Tietjen, kari@apse.org, discuss the **CESP™** and the value of continued recertification in a recent podcast interview ([link here](#)).



Who is our Oregon APSE Mystery Member?

This month's Mystery Member hails from Kentucky, and loves being outdoors and running trails. They've been with their current organization for several years, and says they "have a supportive team that demonstrates true care for one another and the individuals we support. We value promoting independence and believe in what people can achieve both personally and professionally." As an employment manager, they "love seeing people feel successful and take pride in their work." This member also enjoys aerial silks, which this writer found to be a mystery, and encourages you to look it up too! When they're at home, our Mystery Member loves to read and listen to music, cuddle with their cat Cooper, and try to remember their watering schedule, because they have "more plants than [they] can list"! Can you guess our Mystery Member? [See who it is at our website.](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1, Celebrate 2021 and plan for 2022 - APSE Hour 4pm-5pm

December 3, Person Centered, Culturally Competant & Linguistically Accessible Services for the Deaf and I/DD Community, Speaker, Chris Mortensen, Training, 1-3PM

December 1-5, TASH National Conference, Virtual

Happy Holidays to all our Readers!!!

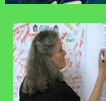


2022 BOARD

NEWLY ELECTED:

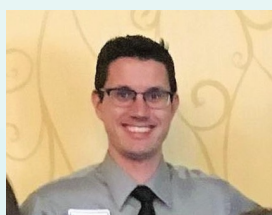
- Glenn Bishop, Tara Mardoll, Kathy Sewell

RE-ELECTED: Ryan Farrow, Nicholas Von Pless, Lisa Ochs, Emily Harris, Debra McLean, and John DeRosa



A Deeper Look into Autism, Part 2

by APSE Member, Eric Thompson



Eric Thompson

Want to know more? email me at runningeagle.eric@gmail.com

Tell us about your relationships with family members.

My relationship with my family is wonderful. I have four sisters and my parents. Although we live far apart we enjoy each other's company. I live by my mom and my little sister's kids come over quite often. Things get chaotic sometimes so I go upstairs working on projects or watching tv shows. Family is very important.

What suggestions do you have for how others can support someone with autism?

Everyone with a disability is different. It's always important to listen rather than assume based upon their appearance. If you listen to them, you can probably understand how to help. Visuals are key to helping them learn new skills. Visuals are important for me because I know what to do in my job. By following the list, I manage my time and don't leave early from work. It's very important for people with disabilities to know how to use visuals.

I've learned that people with disabilities have an Individual Education Plans (IEP) and Individual Service Plan which are similar. An IEP is a plan to help a person succeed in school. An ISP opens the door to many opportunities. It helps them know what life they could live and how to support them. It includes medication, meal planning, employment and also projects. It's amazing.

Do you have suggestions for documentaries to learn more about people with autism and other disabilities?

- The Social Dilemma, The Game Changers, Love on the Spectrum, In the Shadow of Fairview, Intelligent Lives, and Where's Molly for more information press this link: [\(cont.\)](#)

All of these documentaries are very important because I know that people with disabilities can do hard things, and with your support, people with disabilities can accomplish anything.

If you have any questions about autism you, can learn more in my book, Autism A Personal Perspective, which you can find on paperback on Amazon, or I can send you the digital outline free of charge by email.

