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A Commitment to Excellence

NEW LENOX, ILLINOIS:

The National Association of Qualified Developmental Disability Professionals * (NAQ) announced the names of the first graduates of its Certificate in Developmental Disabilities Program.

The following list includes individuals from across the country:

Brandy Bowlin, Easter Seals UCP, Wilmington, North Carolina
Amie Clarke, Trinity Services, Inc., Joliet, Illinois
Leeann Hollowell, Easter Seals UCP, Wilmington, North Carolina
Barb Jakubowski, Charleston Transitional Facility, Charleston, Illinois
Kathryn Larson, DSHS Western State Hospital, Tacoma, Washington

All completed the necessary requirements of the program and were the first to receive the prestigious award.

NAQ in partnership with the Minot State University established the certificate program in order to provide advanced and standardized training to working professionals.

Holly Janczak, Director of the Association, commented, "We created the program primarily to meet the needs of bachelor degree professionals working in the field, such as QMRPs, Case Workers, Case Managers and Developmental Disability Specialists. Most states and many providers do not offer training opportunities and often the content is lagging in contemporary practices."

The certificate program requires candidates to complete required learning modules as well as electives – brief exams test their mastery. The curriculum includes submission of a professional portfolio of relevant work products, completion of an on-line abuse and neglect course, and the development of a person centered plan for a person with a disability.

Kate Larson said, "...often the subject matter presented went much deeper than expected and gave me a new perspective on ways to approach challenges...."

For more information, contact Holly Janczak at hjanczak@qddp.org.

* NAQ – formerly the National Association of Qualified Mental Retardation Professionals.

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