

Matthew B. Lawrence

Objective:

To utilize my education and personal life experience to help individuals with disabilities cope with daily life challenges, see the possibilities for their future growth, and understand the technologies that can help them accomplish their life goals, and foster positive self worth.

Experience:

June 2009 – present – AmeriCorps VISTA – Lufkin, TX
Development Specialist – responsible for assisting the Family Strengthening Coordinator in implementing the family strengthening model for the agency's financial education and computer training programs.

October 2006-October 2008 – JobEnable.com/NetworkIP – Longview, TX
Project Manager/Founder – Conceptualized the idea of JobEnable then I pitched the idea to NetworkIP. JobEnable.com was a job search web site for people with disabilities.

Duties include but are not limited to: maintaining the web site, finding new leads, distributing those leads to the sales team, writing weekly blog entries, investigating false companies and ads, creating job postings for companies unable to do them, writing weekly reports, creating custom packages for customers, and utilizing career fairs/expos to get the word out about JobEnable.

January – May 2005 – Goodwill Industries - Lufkin, TX
Practicum Student – Served under the Vocational Counselor in placing disabled clients in suitable positions through the Goodwill Work Adjustment Training Program.

Summer 2003 – Camp Counselor – Camp Oakhurst, Oakhurst, NJ
Served with a team of seven counselors in a cabin environment. Tasks included meeting the physical needs of children with varied degrees of disability, along with providing emotional support and encouragement. Assistance was also provided to campers to allow them to participate in the various camp activities. This assistance was dependent of the severity of the child's disability.

Summer 2002 – Photo Specialist – Camp Oakhurst, Oakhurst, NJ
Participated in the development of camp attendees by teaching three separate digital photography classes daily which culminated in the completion of a camp photo yearbook.

1997 – 2000 – The Pine Log / Stone Fort

Webmaster – Responsibilities included layout and posting of the bi-weekly, on-line college newspaper. Site maintenance was also included to help insure proper function and access to the website.

Contributing Writer – Developed articles and achieved publication of articles through interviews and personal life experiences.

Organizations Editor – Held the primary responsibility for completing the design, lay out, and publication of the Stephen F. Austin State University Yearbook, The Stone Fort.

Education:

Master's Degree - Interdisciplinary Studies with focus on Counseling
Social Work, and Educational Psychology
Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX

Bachelor's Degree – Journalism and Sociology
Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX

Computer Skills:

Strong PC and Mac abilities
Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator,
PageMaker, Acrobat, and Dream Weaver, and many other web based platforms.

Involvement:

Dystonia Medical Research Foundation – Active Member of the Junior Advisory Council.

Dystonia Advocacy Coalition – Participate in Washington D.C. Congressional Interaction each spring

Have spoken to different Dystonia groups telling my story.