

Success Stories: Vocational Rehabilitation



Quade Lance



OCCUPATION:
School Teacher

COUNSELORS:

VR Counselor: Sharon Denison, Eastern Utah District

VR PROVIDED ASSISTANCE:

- Vocational Guidance and Counseling
- Individualized Plan for Employment
- Mental Health Treatment
- Educational Assistance

When Quade applied with vocational rehabilitation (VR), he was in high school and dealing with significant disabilities that impacted him emotionally, socially and educationally. He was initially hesitant about the transition to adulthood. “When I first became a client, I was not so sure that I was going to continue being a client for VR. However, my counselor, Sharon Denison, who oversaw my journey within the agency, listened to my concerns and made me feel that I was capable of some great things.”

During his time with VR, Quade would graduate from high school, attend therapy to develop the skills to address barriers in his path, complete a bachelor’s degree from Utah State University-Uintah Basin and obtain competitive employment as a secondary education teacher in the Uintah School District. “VR helped provide me with the tools necessary to succeed in my current workplace, achieve my college degree, and as a by-product, helped me achieve...and further my impact

within the community in which I was born and raised. I was empowered and motivated through the life skills and coping skills that I developed.”

Quade has already made an impact on the students whose lives he touches daily. In February 2023, he was recognized for teaching excellence by the Uintah Schools Foundation and was awarded the 2023 Showalter Endowment Excellence in Teaching Award. But Quade has not forgotten the role the VR program and played in his development and success in life. “I will never forget the help I received from my counselor. I credit much of my future and my present to her.” That type of collaboration between a VR counselor and client is truly worth celebrating. Put an apple on both of their desks!