

AHEC-SSW Training Partnership Faculty Information Sheet

Name: **Laurel Powell**

Position/Title: Program Manager for Family Support Program and Family Support Network of NC-University Office

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Education/Degrees:

- Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling and Psychology from UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine
- Bachelor of Arts in Special Education with a Concentration in Psychology from UNC Wilmington Watson School of Education

Brief Summary of Work Experience:

My entire professional career has been dedicated to supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I began as a teacher in the WCPSS as a special education teacher in a self-contained classroom. I have worked with transition age youth and adults with I/DD, mental health diagnoses, and special healthcare needs to find and secure competitive employment. I have also worked with individuals with co-occurring I/DD and behavioral health challenges living in the community and their systems of care in crisis prevention and intervention planning. I have experience working with stakeholders from every level including national, state, self-advocates, and grassroots organizations. I have worked with families to amplify their voices and advocacy efforts in policy making regarding people with I/DD. My passion is supporting people with I/DD, neurodiversity's, mental health challenges and special healthcare needs and their caregivers to develop a community that is inclusive and affirming.

Specialization/Research Areas:

I have expertise in utilizing positive psychology and trauma informed techniques in supporting people with I/DD.