CPD Legacy Story: Tell Joyner

Center for Persons With Disabilities

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This next Legacy Story is about Tell Joyner, one of the Postsecondary Education, Employment, and Research (PEER) program’s participants. Tell is one of 17 students enrolled in PEER this year.

By Tell Joyner as told to Connie Pehrson

My name is Tell Joyner and I am part of the PEER program at USU. I have been here for one and a half years. I like it here because I get to work on getting my high school diploma that I wasn’t able to get in high school.

This is a chance for people like me with a disability to be able to learn how to make it in the wide world. We work on our GED classes and also learn job skills and finances. Every month we fill out a fake budget. I pay my “bills,” like power, rent, cable, and food. I have to make sure I have enough money for all those at the end of the month.

I like riding the city buses to get to school from North Logan to the University. Sometimes I ride the buses to go downtown and do some shopping.

History is my love. “Western Civilization is way good.” I learned about history from reading the encyclopedia.

Kerry Done, my teacher, got me a job with the Anthropology Department at USU. I get to research items in their museum and write up a summary of them on a card. I looked up things about a Mayan bowl that was made of clay on the internet--I googled it. I also go to the the USU Library web site and look through their electronic resources and data base. I work there for 1- 1/2 hours every day.

In the future I would like to go to USU and major in history or political science, and maybe minor in anthropology, since I have experience working in the museum here. Maybe I could do research or teach.

I have met some good friends here on the campus; the other students at PEER, students in my Institute class, and the tutors at the museum. This is a good place for me.