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Center for Persons With Disabilities

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CHANGING PLACES AND FACES AT THE CPD

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You may notice a few changes around the CPD when you walk through the halls this fall.

There will be a new face in the front office area - Charlee Nealy will be taking over as Administrative staff assistant, replacing our beloved Diane Green, who is retiring soon.

Charlee has been working as the Up to 3 Early Intervention staff assistant for the past few years. Moving to the front office has been a bit daunting, but exciting for Charlee, who said after her first day here, "Diane is not allowed to leave!" But, after thinking about it a minute, she declared, "I think it's going to be awesome!"

Taking Charlee's place in the Up to 3 program is Miriam Williams, a newly graduated USU student who has been working part time for the past five years as the Up to 3 data manager. "I love working for the Up to 3 program. Everyone here is so great!" She is a little nervous about taking over Charlee's position, because, in her words, "Charlee's shoes will be hard to fill!"

Miriam graduated in English Education, with the goal of finding a job in secondary education. After being surrounded by the excellent Up to 3 staff and seeing what an impact they are having on young children with disabilities, it has made her rethink what her future plans may be. She is considering continuing her education and getting a Special Education degree.

She says, "I had never thought about it before, but I am now more aware of people with disabilities out in the community and feel very comfortable interacting with them." She shared that recently she was near a young teenager who had some significant disabilities and his family. Others were staring at him and appeared uncomfortable and awkward around him, but Miriam just wanted to go over and talk to him and spend more time with him.

That is something that seems to happen to people who work at the CPD. They learn to respect people who have disabilities and begin to see them as wonderful people who are more like them than different from them.

We welcome the changes that are happening at the CPD, and wish them all well in their new endeavors.