



CTRS®

Specialization Area Designation Spotlight



Kate DeAngelis, CTRS, CPRP Community Inclusion Services

NCTRC is proud to spotlight CTRSs with advanced recreational therapy experience and focused continuing education who have earned one or more Specialization Area Designations. The CTRS Specialization Area Designation is a direct extension of the CTRS credential. Specialization is well recognized within professional practice and has become the norm within the health and human service delivery system today. Invest in your professional portfolio - go to NCTRC.org to get started.

Kate DeAngelis is a CTRS who also earned specialization in Community Inclusion Services through NCTRC. Read Kate's story below.

Going into college I had no idea what I would want to do with my career. I always thought having a career meant sitting behind a desk, doing something you can tolerate until you are able to retire. When I learned about Therapeutic Recreation (TR), everything I thought I knew about having a career changed. I was dead wrong – you can do something that makes you happy and fills your cup while having a thriving career.

I truly feel like I did not find TR as much as TR found me. Holding my CTRS credential has allowed me to grow professionally and personally. It has given me the opportunity to experience so many new things like traveling to new places for conferences, helping my team design a new community playground, and getting to connect with colleagues from across the country in different settings.

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Kate DeAngelis (continued)

Being a CTRS in community recreation has been a unique experience and has allowed for me and my fellow CTRSs in Massachusetts to open the conversation in the Recreation world for more opportunities surrounding inclusion, disability rights/needs and accessibility. Therapeutic Recreation touches every part of Parks and Recreation – whether it's ensuring the administration team can answer questions related to disability support, to implementing inclusion tools into a program, or helping make a facility more accessible. TR and Parks and Recreation go hand in hand.

- Holding my CTRS gives me the confidence to provide a voice for people who can't advocate for themselves.
- Holding my CTRS gives me and my colleagues the comfort of knowing that we are doing what is right but also what is best practice.
- Holding my CTRS gives families the trust that I will hold myself to the highest standard and work hard to impact the lives of everyone I work with.
- Holding my CTRS allows me to help other communities increase access and remove barriers.
- Holding my CTRS gives me the encouragement to continue working hard and growing my skills professionally.

Recently, I applied for and received a specialization designation in community inclusion services through NCTRC. The specialization may just be another badge added to my email signature – but it means that the many hours and work I have dedicated to the area of community inclusion have been recognized. It impacts me on a professional level and impacts my entire team at an organizational level. It shows that we can never stop learning, growing, and reaching for new goals. The world of Therapeutic Recreation is constantly evolving, adapting, and growing along with the needs of the world – it's important as practitioners and providers that we continue to do the same, looking for ways to grow within our field. Every day I am excited to go into work and I feel privileged to hold my job. I am proud to be a CTRS and I am excited for the future of TR!



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Give
yourself
an edge.

Earn a Specialization
Area Designation for
your CTRS® Credential



The Specialization Area Designation on the CTRS credential is used to indicate advanced knowledge, skill, recreational therapy experience and focused continuing education within a specified area of practice. All earners of CTRS Specialization Area Designation are issued a digital badge to spotlight their achievements. In today's demanding job market, showcasing your skills and achievements by using digital badges helps you stand out amongst the crowd.

[Learn more about CTRS Specialization Area Designation.](#)