



TERRA JOY

Schenectady ARC

Terra Joy is the Director of Supported Employment at Schenectady ARC. She supports those with intellectual and development disabilities to achieve their vocational goals. She oversees services and programs such as intensive and extended supported employment, community pre-vocational and school to work experience. Her role includes collaborations and partnerships with various funding sources and organizations including the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, the Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation and local school districts.

Previously she worked with the Seva Foundation with their Native American Community Health Program. Here she collaborated with partners in Oakland CA, Kotzebue, Alaska and South Dakota reviving traditional food systems to combat rising rates of type II diabetes in indigenous communities. She also worked for Shanxi University in Taiyuan, P.R. of China from 2008-2010 as an English Instructor for undergrad and graduate students. Her role was extended as a Cultural Instructor for Chinese professors planning to work abroad in England and America.

Terra is a returned Peace Corps Volunteer who served in the Gambia, West Africa as a Community Health Program Volunteer 2005-2007. She led multiple projects including the Gambian wide all schools tree nursery competition to prevent deforestation and address nutritional deficiencies in Wolof, Fula and Mandinka villages. She studied Anthropology/Archaeology during her undergraduate studies at SUNY Oneonta and went on to complete her master's degree in Sustainable International Development from Brandeis University, the Heller School for Social Policy and Management. Terra currently resides in Glenville with her husband Michael and their two children Eleanora and Michael Thomas.