CAC Corner: We Are People, First! | CPD

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Nancy Bentley, director of Active Re-Entry in Price, receives the Community Investment Award from CAC member Kelly Holt (left) in this file photo from February, 2013.

My name is Kelly Holt and I live in Price, Utah with my dad and my sister and my dog, Punky. I am very proud to be on the Consumer Advisory Council for the Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University. This is a learning process for me to be the chairperson of the CAC. It is fun and I am learning a lot.

I work at the USU Eastern campus in Price. I am a very strong self-advocate and I am so glad that I know my rights. I am involved with People First of Utah, which is part of the self-advocacy movement, an international civil rights movement for people with disabilities. People First of Utah is a self-advocacy organization that assists people with intellectual and developmental disabilities learn how to advocate for themselves, increase their independence and become a part of their community. People First of Utah members believe that, “We are People First and we can speak for ourselves!” Our members meet in local groups around the state to learn self-advocacy skills and have fun at the same time.

I have also been a member of the Disability Law Center Board of Trustees. The DLC in Salt Lake City is governed by an elected 15-member Board of Trustees. The DLC works on issues of accessibility, assistive technology, civil rights, community living, education, employment, health care, housing, transportation and voting rights.