

RISE, Inc. Receives Community Investment Award

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From left: CPD Director Bryce Fifield, RISE Director Brenda McKee, Kenneth Miler from Cache Valley Bank, CAC member Sonjia Naron and RISE staff member Steven Larson.

RISE, Inc., was recently named the recipient of the Community Investment Award, given by the Consumer Advisory Council of Utah State University's Center for Persons with Disabilities.

The CAC consists of 15 members: five family members of persons with disabilities, five members of state agencies or service providers who work with persons with disabilities, and five self-advocates. The CAC meets twice a year for feedback and guidance on CPD programs.

RISE, Inc., was nominated by CAC member Sonjia Naron, the fiscal and human resources manager at Red Rock Center for Independence in St. George. In her nomination letter, Naron said, "RISE is a nonprofit organization that specializes in home and community-based support services for children and adults with developmental and other disabilities, children with mental health challenges, and aging adults.

"I believe RISE has a very strong program and could benefit from the Community Investment Award. I especially like their day program and found the personnel to be very good and helpful. They also have a strong employment program that utilizes a discovery process to identify the individual's interests, aptitudes, capabilities, and preferences before pursuing any employment options. RISE believes that all people should have the opportunity

for meaningful work and equitable pay. RISE offers Supported Employment for individuals who receive funding through Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), the Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD), and other funding sources."

According to CPD director Bryce Fifield, the Community Investment Award is an opportunity to acknowledge agencies that serve the disability community. Twice a year, the council goes through the nomination and voting process, and the self-advocates choose the winner.

"They learn to negotiate, make challenging decisions and good choices," Fifield said. "This go-round we had eight nominations, and the self-advocates got together to dicker and decide who's doing the best job."

Cache Valley Bank has committed to providing the funds for this and future Community Investment Awards.