



CTRS®

Specialization Area Designation Spotlight



Laura DiFusco, CTRS Behavioral Health, Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation

National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification® (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 designation of specialization provides a higher level of assurance and verification that the practitioner has committed to advancing their knowledge and skills to support provision of quality services to the consumer. Go to NCTRC.org to learn more.

Laura DiFusco is a CTRS who also earned specialization designation through NCTRC in two areas: Behavioral Health and Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation. Laura uses her digital badges on social media to showcase her credentials, skills, and competency within the profession. Read Laura's CTRS story below.

Tell us how being a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist® (CTRS) with a Specialization Area Designation has impacted your career, your ability to provide qualified professional recreational therapy services, and provide a level of protection for consumers of RT services.

Receiving specialization provided me with proof that I have the training and specialized experience to deliver strong and ethical treatment plans to the individuals that I serve. By incorporating the specialized skills that I have learned, I am able to develop enhanced treatment plans which make a difference in people's lives. Earning specialization as a CTRS has allowed me to contribute meaningfully to the milieu teams and demonstrate positive measurable outcomes. For the organization, it is a benefit because I believe that it minimizes liability risk and demonstrates the recreational therapist on staff has advanced knowledge and skill. In addition, it has allowed me to expand my work as a consultant throughout the United States.

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Laura DiFusco *(continued)*

How has Specialization Area Designation helped you continue your professional competence as a CTRS?

Specialization deepens my clinical experience, sharpens my decision-making skills as a director, and provides safeguards for consumers. Specialization has allowed me to learn and use high quality interventions which go above the standard regulatory practice. It has helped me become a clinical educator at many local universities - setting standards of practice and role modeling effective treatment strategies with greater precision. Specialization also helps strengthen my documentation skills and meet state regulatory requirements. I believe that Specialization shows a strong commitment and focus to provide the best recreational therapy services to the population you serve.

Tell us how you are using your CTRS and Specialization digital badges to showcase your achievements to your employer and others within your professional network.

The digital badges bring attention to my credentials, making my certifications easily visible and verifiable. It shows my employer that I have advanced training and am more valuable to the organization. Digital badges give me more credibility that I have specialized competence in my role. The badges show that I have the skills as a CTRS with two earned specialization area designations from NCTRC. Using my badges on social media allows me to be credible, showcase my skills, and be recognized as a forward-thinking professional in my field.