MEET OUR TEAM

JESSICA ROMERO, CTRS/R – Program Manager

Role at the center: I come with extensive experience as a certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and 13 years’ experience working in adapted community recreation with youth and adults with special needs. I enjoy travel all over the world and experience diverse cultures in my free time.

GREG BREZNICAN – Behavior Mental Health Specialist, MA, BCBA

Role at the center: I’m a licensed behavior analyst that oversees all behavioral supports and training here at the center. I’m working on creating a challenging behavior clinical service that is designed to give families and caregivers the tools and support needed at home as well as open up access to more activities in the community. I’ve recently taken on the role of intake lead and we are working to improve our intake process.

MANUEL ARAMBUL – Operations Lead

Role at the center: I have my hands in various things at the center. I oversee classes and curriculum, help organize community outings, give tours of our center and take the lead on operational projects. I like to get to know participants and their families and work to support each student and their individual goals and needs.

WHITNEY FERGUSON, CTRS/R – Volunteer Coordinator

Role at the center: I welcome and assist our student interns and volunteers to the ABC. I am a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and enjoy stepping into classes and helping our participants succeed and have a great experience. I enjoy camping and hiking in my leisure time.

VALERIE UNGER – Administrative Assistant

Role at the center: Hello! As the administrative assistant for the center, I can help with anything “behind-the-scenes” – registration, billing, attendance, etc. If you have a question and you don’t know who to ask, ask me and I can direct you to the correct person.
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BRITTANY LEWIS – Classroom Assistant, Intake Coordinator

Role at the center: I work with participants in classes to ensure they are engaged, growing and having fun and also support instructors. I am excited to be leading our Disney classes and help plan community outings. I also work to welcome new families to the center by supporting the intake process and navigating their introduction to the center.

MAGGIE DELL – Classroom Assistant

Role at the center: Hello! I work as a classroom assistant and help to organize the community outings, one time and special events. From day to day I help setup and transition classrooms, work directly with students to ensure they are having fun, assist the instructors and work to support challenging behaviors during class. I also instruct our Crafts, Science, Gardening and Outward Bound classes!

MICHAEL PHAM – Classroom Assistant

Role at the center: Hi I'm Michael! My journey began volunteering here at the Alyssa Burnett Center. My role now is a Classroom Assistant, so you will probably see me in a lot of your classes! I also instruct Around the World and Photography class! I was born and raised in the heart of Seattle and my hobbies consist of collecting shoes and building my dream car!

MIKAELEA HENDERSON – Classroom Assistant, RBT

Role at the center: I am a per diem classroom assistant at the Alyssa Burnett Center. I am on call and come in when needed/someone is sick, etc. I studied Music and Music Therapy with an emphasis in Exercise Science at Seattle Pacific University and am a part time Behavior Technician in Seattle. I love using my background to help assist the ABC's mission to teach life skills in a fun and adaptive way!

MIKE WILLEN – Classroom Instructor, MPS, LMHCA, AT

Role at the center: My role is to lead classes throughout the week and ensure our students are able to engage in learning and fun recreational activities. I lead art and baking classes and support the Life Skills and Social Skills classes as well.
ALEX JOHNSTON – Classroom Assistant

Role at the center: I am another per diem classroom assistant here at the ABC. I help out and fill in wherever assistance is needed. I graduated from Trinity Lutheran College with a Bachelors in Music. My other work includes directing, leading, and often composing music at several churches in the Seattle area. I also teach private lessons in guitar, piano, and songwriting. I love people, music, and all different expressions of art!

DAN DIAZ – Music Instructor/Music Therapist, MT-BC

Role at the center: I am a Board Certified Music Therapist with a background as a touring and performing musician. I love applying my experiences of being in a rock band to create a similar rock band experience with the incredible adults here at the ABC. Nothing is more fun than creating music with friends and having something to be proud of. Regardless of function level, I believe everyone can be an integral part of the music making process. Rock on!

MELANIE CATES – Art Instructor

Role at the center: Hi I’m Melanie. I began here at Alyssa Burnett Center as a classroom assistant. Though I am now an Instructor in all levels of Art. I will also be teaching Baking, Cooking, Social Skills and Open Rec. I am an Artist at heart, and earned my degree in Painting which allows me to run my own business teaching private art lessons and creating custom works of art in my home studio.

KAYLA MORRISEY – Classroom Assistant

Role at the center: Hello, I am Kayla! I am extremely excited to be a per diem classroom assistant in many classes. I recently graduated with a degree in Family Studies and Child Life. In my free time, I enjoy arts and crafts, traveling, playing with dogs, and board games. I am also a published author and illustrator.

ELLEN RUBY – Music Instructor/ Music Therapist, MT-BC

Role at the center: I am a Board Certified Music Therapist, with a passion for helping others reach therapeutic goals through music! I love using music to help celebrate the whole person, and to bring out the best in people. My musical background is rooted in jazz, classical, and gospel music, and my training is from Seattle Pacific University. We often call music a universal language, and I believe that - it truly is for everyone! I love getting to see music give people a voice, an invitation to get up and dance, and foster life skills in a creative way here at the ABC!
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LAUREN DANIELS – Classroom Instructor

Role at the center: I use to be a full time Classroom Aide, but since having my son, I am now an instructor and I love it! I teach Cooking and Fitness classes and I love seeing everyone each week! In my free time I love to rock climb, snowboard, run, and eat lots of good food!

JILLIAN PENNY – Classroom Instructor

Role at the center: Hello, I’m Jillian! My journey began volunteering here at the Alyssa Burnett Center. I now wear various hats so you will probably see me in a lot of your classes either teaching, assisting, or volunteering! I am pursuing my Masters in Dance/Movement Therapy and I can’t wait to share my knowledge and dance skills with the students at the Alyssa Burnett Center!

JULIE BANKE – Zumba Instructor

Role at the center: I have the privilege of teaching Zumba at the ABC. What an incredible experience it has been. Every week we are moving and grooving, getting fit, making friends and increasing confidence. Come join the party!

JAMES SCHMIDT – Cooking Instructor

Role at the center: I have been working as a cooking instructor at the Burnett Center since the start of the program. I am also an owner of restaurants, most recently Pecado Bueno, and Its All Good Catering. I am a father of three, Francesca the eldest started school at the EEU at 6 months of age. At about that time I got involved with ASTAR and Dr. Gary Stobbe, which opened the door to working with this community. My wife Nicole and I have been rewarded with great support through this community and are happy to help out however we can.

ALICIA TEASLEY – ASL Instructor

Role at the center: Hello, I’m Alicia! I’ll be the ASL Instructor at the Alyssa Burnett Center starting this Fall! I was born Deaf and have used sign language as my main mode of communication all my life. I’m looking forward to teaching students how to communicate and express their thoughts through sign language using handshapes, body movements, facial expressions, etc. In my free time, I love cooking, travelling, paddle boarding, and building things.
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DEB HATHAWAY– Classroom Instructor

Role at the center: Hello! My name is Deb and I teach drama classes at the center. I also teach courses in acting and study skills at UW Bothell. I have loved working at the center and helping ABC students have fun learning about acting and stepping into the spotlight! In my free time, I like baking things that are gluten free and going to events in the community with my family.

SAM MARBAIX– Classroom Assistant

Role at the center: I am a per diem classroom assistant at the Alyssa Burnett Center. I am on call and come in when needed/someone is sick, etc. I started out volunteering for the swim program and have enjoyed working in various classes since.