



For Immediate Release

Easterseals Announces First Nationally Certified Travel Training Instructor

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Washington – July 10, 2018 – Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) Travel Trainer Kelsey Calder is now the first ever nationally certified Travel Training Instructor. Calder successfully completed the Certified Travel Training Instructor program which is accredited through the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) and the University of South Florida and operated by Easterseals Project Action Consulting, Easterseals' Americans with Disabilities Act-related transportation training division. Calder completed substantial coursework and passed her final practicum in June 2018.

Calder was a licensed teacher prior to joining GRTC in 2016, holding a master's in teaching from James Madison University with a concentration in Special Education.

"This certification solidifies that Greater Richmond does need a Travel Trainer. I am the only one in Central Virginia in this unique job," Calder explains. "My number one tip for riders is to grab a friend and ride together! If you're unsure, it's a lot easier to try something new with someone you feel comfortable. Simply getting on to ride round trip lets you experience and know not only where the bus goes but also that you can get back to where you started."

"Kelsey is a super hard worker," said Kristi McLaughlin, manager of Easterseals' Certified Travel Training Instructor program. "She excelled at all the coursework and the hands-on portion of the certification program. It's been a real pleasure working with her. I look forward to hearing how she puts this certification to good use to increase mobility options for people with disabilities and older adults."

Travel Training is a process of teaching individuals with disabilities, older adults, and new riders how to ride public transportation safely and independently. Travel Training Instructors create individualized travel plans that aim to meet the customer's transit goals and show them how to use fixed-route transportation in order to increase transit options and decrease dependence on paratransit services. Easterseals' Travel Training Certification program teaches instructors essential, practical, relevant skills including: customized trip planning, street crossing skills, boarding/alighting processes and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

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About Easterseals

For nearly 100 years Easterseals has been the indispensable resource for people and families challenged by disabilities. Now, as America faces a broad range of new issues, we make a major, positive, life-changing difference in the lives of people and families facing today's disabilities. The work we do every day is redefining disabilities for the 21st century. For more information, please visit easterseals.com.

About Easterseals Project Action Consulting

Easterseals Project Action Consulting, a division of Easterseals, provides customized training solutions and technical expertise on the Americans with Disabilities Act and accessible transportation for transportation providers, human service agencies, states, regional agencies, tribal nations, and communities with the goal of working together to build accessible communities for all! Please visit projectaction.com.