

# APSE Conversations: Meet Stirling (VT)!

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Hi this is Julie Christensen with APSE. We're excited to launch the APSE employment first employment for all podcast as a new way to connect with you. This podcast is a way to provide updates, real time advocacy alerts and information related to all things Employment First, be sure to subscribe so you don't miss an episode, and thanks for listening.

Erica Belois-Pacer

good afternoon depending on where you live, this is Erica Belois-Pacer with National APSE and we continue to recognize people that have found employment. To celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I always put this side comment and that we should be doing this every month. So not just in the month of October but today we have Stirling with us. And I'm going to let Stirling introduce herself and just tell us a little bit about, you know, where she came from what she's doing now, and a variety of things so it's really do you mind introducing yourself to our listeners?

Stirling Peebles

I am on Stirling Peebles and I am from Vermont. The Green State.

Erica Belois-Pacer

It's definitely the Green state and I just have to ask this question Stirling have to leaves started to change yet?

Stirling Peebles

Yes they have.

Erica Belois-Pacer

Is it beautiful?

Stirling Peebles

It's beautiful and also a grey day today.

Erica Belois-Pacer

It's... I was going to ask it is also very great. And New York as well. I live more in upstate New York. So our lives haven't changed very much yet. But hopefully soon. I'm guessing you're ahead of us. So, So Stirling, I know that you've done a variety of things with apps in the past, but do

you mind kind of sharing a little bit of your employment history and what different jobs you may have had?

Stirling Peebles

Okay. I used to work at a local pool in Vermont, and I've been doing internship and employment throughout my lifetime.

Erica Belois-Pacer

So Stirling, this is probably because I used to be a teacher I'm curious, did you have a lot of opportunities to try different employment options or visit places or have part time jobs when you were in high school?

Stirling Peebles

Many part-time jobs. I worked at Scheels in Vermont. That was an internship, but it would also come into a paid job.

Erica Belois-Pacer

I was gonna ask if you were paid. Wow, that's pretty nice and for during high school. What did you like? Best about that job? Oh, that

Stirling Peebles

was more into technology. So I was really into technology back in the day. I still am.

Erica Belois-Pacer

So Stirling after high school what was what did you do after Did you? Did you go to any training programs or did you go straight into employment?

Stirling Peebles

I came from it after after high school. Yeah. And I come in college, in Vermont, many semesters and I kept going to English classes. continue to build on the skills that I needed to go to college was.

Erica Belois-Pacer

That's great. I think it's always good to practice on things that you want to get more education and so that's great. So you went to community college and then when did you kind of reach out or maybe get supported employment?

Stirling Peebles

Supported Employment in 2010. I... I've had some support staff along the way. Other vocational opportunities locally. It took off in 2010 after I got services.

Erica Belois-Pacer

you have a good memory. That's awesome. So I'm guessing Have you had kind of a variety or have you chosen a variety of supports kind of over the years in terms of maybe if you change to a job or maybe you had to learn something new?

Stirling Peebles

I had a variety of different job skills because back in high school I did two years at vocational technical center locally so I did study computer networking in one year. And then next year, I did Graphic Communications in via technology.

Erica Belois-Pacer

Wow, that's great. So can I ask are you using those skills in your current role?

Stirling Peebles

Yes. I am.

Erica Belois-Pacer

Do you want to tell us a little bit about what you're doing? Now?

Stirling Peebles

Okay. I work for program called Think College Vermont. It's an education program at the University of Vermont centered on and it's centered on disability inclusion. And I do it all the communications in ThinkCollege Vermont program. I write things. I manage some social media pages like the Facebook Page, the LinkedIn page. I do those job tasks everyday.

Erica Belois-Pacer

Stirling I think I've I think probably many of our listeners may have seen your different Facebook postings. Do you mind letting our listeners know what the name of it is on Facebook?

Stirling Peebles

I managed the Employment Corner which I started in in 2014.

Erica Belois-Pacer

And how many people are now part of the employment corner? I have a feeling that it grows every day. Am I correct?

Stirling Peebles

Every day, but I'll give you an accurate number.

Erica Belois-Pacer

Good

Stirling Peebles

967 members now.

Erica Belois-Pacer

That's awesome. And then on LinkedIn, is it the same? Is it the employment corner on LinkedIn as well?

Stirling Peebles

I got rid of that. No one was using it.

Erica Belois-Pacer

No, that's wonderful. So what kinds of things do you post on there? I know I've seen a variety of things and I think it's definitely helpful to many people out there. But do you want to share a little bit about it?

Stirling Peebles

Sometimes I do post about some APSE's national policy. Some bills doing it now is legislative section of National APSE and anything on 14c subminimum wage bill.

Erica Belois-Pacer

in Stirling do you do a lot of policy and advocacy for the state of Vermont?

Stirling Peebles

I do. My other job is at Green Mountain Self Advocates. Run by with disabilities just like me. So I do. Some APSE work and do some communication stuff.

Erica Belois-Pacer

So your other job is with the Green Mountain self advocate group. Right? How long has that been part of your life? Yeah, and I feel like I'm some of the things I've seen. You've developed different user friendly documents and I'm curious what other things have you done?

Stirling Peebles

Oh, I forget... I helped with ... the statutes.

Erica Belois-Pacer

Excellent. So gosh, Are you super busy every week?

Stirling Peebles

Um, I am in 2019 I was accepted as a fellow graduated in 2019. And they asked me back in 2020... and just living life.

Erica Belois-Pacer

That's, um, so in between, gosh, all the things that you're doing in terms of advocacy, posting information. It sounds like you do some mentorship. You know, um, what do you do in your free time?

Stirling Peebles

I enjoy watching Netflix night. I love taking food. I love photography. I am my own profession. Okay. Some photography and Facebook. So it's one thing that I do I think four years.

Erica Belois-Pacer

Yeah, I was gonna say and you're definitely in a state where I'm sure you find lots of beautiful things to take pictures off and I know I've seen some of it. So will you be doing any photo shoots in the fall?

Stirling Peebles

I am doing greeting cards right now at some point, so... oh I did photographs this winter.

Erica Belois-Pacer

Oh, that's great. Do you actually sell any of your greeting cards or photos?

Stirling Peebles

I have not yet. I don't have.

Erica Belois-Pacer

Okay, well, maybe that could be a future thing. Who knows? Yeah. So Stirling Do you mind? Do you have any advice for listeners out there just in terms of you know, how to be proactive and making sure that people with disabilities are having competitive integrated jobs and opportunities? Or you know if there's any advice you have for employment support professionals, maybe things that people have assisted you with in the past? That would be great.

Stirling Peebles

My advice is to be who you are. Just be yourself. My second tip is if it's a hobby, who is person centered, so it used to be about you or anyone else. Tip number 3 make sure you pick some fun things you'd like to do.

Erica Belois-Pacer

Oh, that's a lot of advice. I think it's all great. Definitely, um, Stirling just out of curiosity. It sounds like you love the job that you're currently in. But did you love all of the jobs that you've had been in the past?

Stirling Peebles

Yeah, I didn't have all my jobs. My jobs too. But I know I'm in a job that actually helped give students a chance at going to college. So putting education to greatly to get employment. Good. One aspect we have is a vocational piece.

Erica Belois-Pacer

Which makes all the difference I think. Yeah, absolutely. So I agree. You know, making sure that you're doing something you love enjoy makes a huge difference. And also, you know, having education and training you know, it doesn't always have to be at college. I know that you're

definitely very involved at the college level, which is great, but just having that education that is going to support you to move forward is huge.

Stirling Peebles

I think my final advice I would say to most people who are listening to this broadcast, is that you make sure it's about you ... barriers... To be at the table is employment professionals and agencies as well. Have a voice to you to to what happens in your life. It's all about you.  
Employment First move you

Erica Belois-Pacer

Stirling. That's awesome advice. I really appreciate it and agree with you. For sure. So thank you so much for spending time with us and I'm sure that we will see you at different events, whether it's virtual or in person, hopefully some more in person events. And I would definitely encourage people to check out your Facebook page, the employment corner I know that Stirling is on LinkedIn as well. And I'm trying to think Is there any other places that people can find you Stirling to connect?

Stirling Peebles

I'm on Instagram.

Erica Belois-Pacer

Wow, That's it.

Stirling Peebles

I'm also on on Twitter.

Erica Belois-Pacer

So you are everywhere and Stirling for Instagram and for Twitter. Is it just your name Stirling? Peebles?

Stirling Peebles

underscore Peebles

Erica Belois-Pacer

great so if people search for it, I'm guessing they could find you. Does that make sense? Perfect.

Stirling Peebles

And my photography I'm also on Instagram

Erica Belois-Pacer

and what is the what is what should people search for to find that one?

Stirling Peebles

Stirling understore photographer

Erica Belois-Pacer

underscore photographer. Okay, well I'm gonna look for it. after I get off this call. so hopefully you will accept me into the group which is great. Well, thank you again. and hopefully our gloomy weather in New York and Vermont will clear up so that you can maybe take some nice fall pictures. Okay, well thank you and tune in for another podcast recording next week.

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>