

## Erika Hatcher Video Transcript

Hi! My name is Erika Hatcher. I recently interned at Recovery Empowerment Network in Phoenix, Arizona where my field experience focused mostly on co-facilitating small groups and classes with adults who had been diagnosed with serious mental illness. Our groups and classes covered a wide variety of topics including: feelings, personal values, learning about nutrition, learning how to write your own ISP, processing grief and loss, and going through past traumas and all of those classes use the recovery philosophy as their basis. It was really an interesting time for me at Recovery Empowerment Network because I learned so much about the recovery philosophy and I got so much experience practicing it, but I never really learned about it at school. And so it was really interesting to have those different kind of points of view between my internship and my studies at school and I wish that they had been a little more cohesive and that the recovery philosophy had been incorporated into my studies.

My time at Recovery Empowerment Network influenced me so much professionally because I got to see the great effect that using the recovery philosophy can have on people who have lived with an SMI diagnosis for many, many years. There's so much hope instilled in the recovery philosophy that you can't help but get better when you're working in that recovery philosophy. There were people who had suffered for many, many years before coming to our program and then they just would flourish after just a few months at our program. And eventually some people moved on and got jobs and you know, where they were whole people again. And having that experience and learning that working with people with the recovery philosophy, learning that that can change people that way, it was so inspiring to me as a social worker and it has made me want to continue that work of the recovery orientation. And you know personally, it was really inspiring every day to go to my internship and just see the hope that people had because of that program. So it was really fulfilling to do that work and see how wonderful it really could be for people and how much it could change their lives. So I hope that as field instructors you have the opportunity to have your students work in the recovery orientation because it really is life changing professionally and personally and I'm so thankful for that experience. So I hope that you have the opportunity to give that to your students because it really is wonderful. Thanks.