

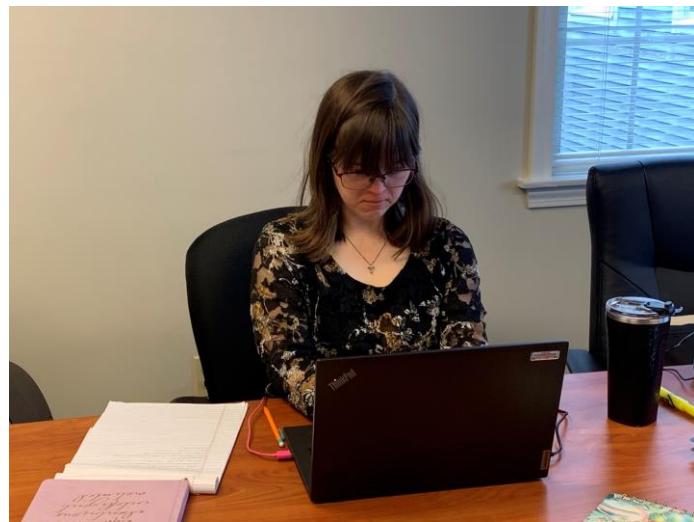
## **Shannon Flannery's Employment Success Story**

**Shannon is a DDS Self Advocate Coordinator who started her position in 2024. She works in the Private Division. Shannon enjoys getting to know her co-workers. She said, “this is a huge opportunity for me, and I love it!” It makes her feel really happy. Shannon loves to speak to large groups. She stated, “When I do large presentations, it makes me realize I can do anything, and I just need to keep my head up.”**

**Shannon’s last job was working in the mail room at Pfizer for 7 years. Shannon is inspired to be part of her community and enjoys many hobbies. She likes to read books, write, swim, knit, and make hats and scarfs. As a child Shannon had to overcome the challenges of having 17 hip surgeries. She doesn’t let challenges get her down. Shannon works hard to find ways to overcome anything that stands in her way.**

**Every morning Shannon wakes up; she looks forward to her morning cup of coffee. It keeps her energized and motivated for the day! Her Family, Direct Support Professional, and Transition Advisors inspire her to be successful and have a lot of energy. Her cousins always told her to chase her dreams, and she absolutely is! Shannon's next goals are to start her own self advocacy groups and get her own apartment.**

**“Follow your dreams in your life, and don’t give up.” This is Shannon’s advice to other individuals about being Self-Determined in accomplishing their dreams. Shannon would also like to give thanks to Ellen and to the DDS interview panel for hiring her and giving her the opportunity to inspire others to self advocate and live self determined lives.**



Written by: Natasha Cole, Self Advocate Coordinator in the WR-Torrington office.