

TAM Rising Star for 2022 Award

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This year, TAM is excited to introduce an award designed to recognize a current TAM member who, even though relatively new to mediation, is already having a significant positive impact on the mediation community. We have named this special award TAM Rising Star.

A TAM Rising Star is the kind of person who “jumps in with both feet” – someone who volunteers to do whatever he or she can to help further TAM’s goals and to support the wider mediation community. The recipient need not be young in age; however, he or she will be within five years of having received basic mediation training and becoming a member of TAM.

A family member describes this year’s Rising Star as an “optimistic, wonderful ball of sunshine” who has always wanted to be the kind of person who bridges gaps in communication. She became enamored with the idea of helping others through the use of American Sign Language after seeing a sign language presentation when she was in the 5th grade. This love affair continued into high school, where she studied ASL as her “foreign” language.

She has a wonderful “can-do” attitude, telling her mother at one point, “Mom, I have no idea what I’m doing; but, you know what, I can figure it out.”

Our first TAM Rising Star is indeed quite young. In fact, in the short time since joining our ranks, our honoree has gone through a number of rites of passage that many older members of TAM will remember experiencing ourselves as young adults and will view as having defined our lives in some way.

This recipient graduated cum laude from college with a degree in Interpersonal Communications. She interned for a U.S. Congressman. In her young life, she nearly lost a parent to heart disease. There’s sweetness now, as she is engaged to be married. Amidst her already full life, she has managed to find the time to become an integral part of our TAM family.

Our honoree joined TAM as a Candidate for Membership shortly after she received her basic mediation training in 2020. For most of us on the Board she exploded onto the TAM scene when she was nominated for and accepted an appointed position as Social Media Chair for TAM in early 2021.

Since accepting that nomination, she has worked diligently to strengthen TAM’s social media presence and makes what she does seem effortless—though we know it’s not. Not only has she done an excellent job in her appointed role; she has also actively participated in board meetings and even volunteered to become a member of the hardworking By-Laws Revision Committee, where her fresh eyes and unique perspective provided all of us quite valuable insight.

