

Comp Laude® Award: Injured Worker

Erin Husman

Erin Husman epitomizes the ultimate in positive energy and willfulness to be the best she can be despite a life-changing catastrophic accident. She did not allow a traumatic experience to waiver her and instead, embraced the challenge. A workplace injury crushed her spinal cord at the thoracic level (T-10) resulting in paraplegia.

Erin was eager to maximize her recovery and agreed to travel to a Spinal Cord Injury Center of Excellence (CRAIG Hospital) in Denver, CO where she actively engaged in learning how to navigate the challenges of living with paraplegia and become fully independent. She even realized her dream of flying in a small single-engine plane while at CRAIG. Erin now participates in the mentorship program, assisting others who have sustained a similar injury. She speaks with other patients and shares her advice and experience.

In regard to her experience in the workers' compensation industry, Erin reflected, "There's such a negative connotation in workers' compensation and it's really not a negative thing. Especially with being here, I've learned that everyone really does want to support you in within the industry."

When asked what advice she has for other injured workers, Erin said, "Not to be afraid. There's so many questions that run through your head when you're injured and I think mostly you're just kind of in shock of your injury [...] but not to be afraid to ask the questions."

Today Erin is 100% functionally independent, has established a home of her own, and returned to school to pursue her dreams. Erin now enjoys an active outdoor lifestyle with friends in Colorado and her two rescue dogs.

