

A Note from Melanie

Dear Friends,

It's been my experience that the older I get, the more life seems to circle back around. While becoming the Director of CADRE this past October is new and exciting, it is also comfortable and familiar – like coming back home again.

In the 80s, I came to Eugene, OR as a graduate student with big ideas (and big hair). Back then, mediation was a radical alternative to other dispute resolution options and I was drawn to learn more, both in practice and in research. Several states and several decades later, I'm still sold on the promise of collaborative problem solving. It's been the thread tying my career together, from being a professor, an ombudsperson, and until recently, my time as Idaho's Dispute Resolution Coordinator.



CADRE has been a kindred spirit by supporting my passion to promote facilitation and upstream dispute resolution in Idaho. Their encouragement bolstered our state's efforts to collaborate with our parent center and local educational agencies to improve the lives of students with disabilities. CADRE's commitment to building bridges and fostering relationships is a mission I will continue to champion.

I am so incredibly honored to be a part of moving this work forward at a national level. CADRE remains committed to the prevention and resolution of disputes through partnership and collaboration. This is why we're here and we are listening if you have ideas for how we can support your important work.

Warmly,

Melanie Reese, Ph.D.

