

By Rachel Thompson, CPM candidate and trained nurse, wife, mother of 6 children and lives in Pamplin, VA

According to Dalhousie University, a preceptor is an experienced practitioner who provides supervision during clinical practice and facilitates the application of theory to practice for students and staff learners. A preceptor works with the learner for a defined period of time to assist the learner in acquiring new competencies required for safe, ethical, and quality practice. They assist the learner by setting expectation, providing effective feedback about their performance, and providing appropriate opportunities to meet their learning objectives.

Audrey Trepiccione has exemplified this definition and far exceeded it in her role as a preceptor through NARM (North American Registry of Midwives). Her heart is not only for each individual client, but also for the future of the profession of the CPM and as such, she is passionate about teaching and training the next generation of midwives. She has offered her wisdom and experience, provided opportunities for learning and clinical hands-on, as well as challenged the student to evaluate and apply knowledge and the midwifery model of care to each unique situation. Audrey is excellent in her ability to teach and explain, well and thoroughly, the subject matters involved in the practice of midwifery. She is enthusiastic and passionate in raising up new midwives who are knowledgeable and skilled. Her skill and nuance as an instructor go beyond passing on knowledge to shaping the heart of a midwife in the student. Even when situations require her to bring specific correction or guided instruction to the student, she does so with tremendous grace. Audrey has provided an undergirding and empowerment in her instruction which enables students to become capable and confident midwives.

Personally, over the last year and a half of working under Audrey as a student, I have gained from her not only valuable learning and skill through educational opportunities which she has helped create, but her confidence in me as a student to incorporate heart and knowledge has been invaluable in building confidence as I step into the role of midwife. I am beyond grateful for her input in my life!