Tatum graduated from Carleton College with a major in English and a minor in Archaeology. He moved to Nicaragua where he joined an archaeological excavation funded by a joint venture between UCLA and the Nicaraguan National Government. During this venture, he worked closely with Nicaragua's National Museum and was the primary interpreter between the Nicaraguan and American archaeologists. Since then, he has worked on an organic farm on the border of Canada, taught Spanish, and coached basketball. In an effort to reestablish roots in his hometown of Steamboat, he accepted the position of Rout County Case Manager with Horizons in 2002. Having an older brother with autism, this move resonated with past experience and quickly became an opportunity to better understand the world of people with cognitive disabilities. In 2008, he became the Adult Program Director at Horizons. In 2019, Tatum was offered the position of Executive Director beginning January 1st, 2020.

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