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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Arc Mid-Hudson celebrates NDEAM**

Kingston, NY. The Arc Mid-Hudson celebrates our nation's 75<sup>th</sup> National Disability Employment Awareness Month. October is a month of change and a fitting time to educate about disability employment throughout America, to encourage organizations to commit to hiring employees with disabilities, and to celebrate those employers who have already created inclusive workplaces.

The Arc Mid-Hudson offers a range of programs, which focus on more workplaces that are diverse and supporting those who want to find meaningful employment. One program, ENRICH, is designed to assist high school students that have intellectual or developmental disabilities to gain work and social skills that are crucial for future employment. ENRICH serves 13 school districts and BOCES to provide students support for transitioning into the workforce. The Arc Mid-Hudson Supported Employment Program helps to serve a variety of individuals who need assistance with job placement. Whether it's discovering new professions, receive training, or continuing education, The Arc Mid-Hudson works hand-in-hand with local businesses and corporations to develop, sustain, and forge connections within our disability community.

Dan Couse, from State Farm in Ellenville, said "I feel like the ability to provide an employment opportunity to someone that may be overlooked without the tutelage and representation of the program is rewarding for all parties. We, as employers, can watch someone grow in ability and responsibility, get to know them, mentor them if possible, and provide satisfaction of achieving an income, and employment on their own."

"The Arc Mid-Hudson Supported Employment Program listened to what our needs were for a staff person and matched us with a qualified candidate to interview. We hired that candidate and they've been performing well for us now for three years and counting. We wouldn't hesitate to work with The Arc Mid-Hudson again in the future." says Michelle Solcberg, Assistant to the Supervisor at the Town of Marbletown.

Cathy Monroe, a Manager at Peter Harris in New Paltz states "We started our relationship with The Arc Mid-Hudson by hosting an internship. It went so well that we hired the candidate who has been with us 3 years. I recommend partnering with The Arc Mid-Hudson for your employment needs."



Jon Denier, Pilot Plant Manager at Charles River, added “Charles River Laboratories is an organization that values our employees and our local communities. Individuals with disabilities bring new and fresh perspective to the workplace. The experiences generally benefit the entire team. It is truly a rewarding experience and beneficial to all involved.

Also, The Cornell Creative Business Center provides nine artisan work sites, which allows startup businesses to invest in our county, grow, profit, and employ people with disabilities. There are currently pods available, below market rent, to start, grow, employ those with disabilities, and make a statement to the local community that you are a socially responsible company.

For more information regarding The Arc Mid-Hudson programs and opportunities, please visit [www.arcmh.org](http://www.arcmh.org) or call 845-331-4300.



*~The Arc Mid-Hudson 2019 Humanitarian Awards.*



**About Cornell Creative Arts Center:**

The Cornell Creative Arts Center is a 12,000 SF building located in the heart of Midtown Kingston. Our facilities include a large open ceramic studio, a dance/movement studio, a public gallery space, a digital arts-media studio, a painting/drawing/mixed media studio, several private artist studios, and a space for music therapy. In addition, our facility also houses the Kingston location for Arts Mid-Hudson, and the Creative Co-working office space as well. At Cornell Creative Arts Center, every person is supported, encouraged, empowered and accepted into an environment where they are provided with rich opportunities to learn and grow their artistic talents. People who enroll in classes offered by the CCAC will participate an integrated program that serves Midtown Kingston, providing affordable and comprehensive access to the arts to both people with and without disabilities. People can work together in our supported arts program to teach, learn, and mutually uplift one another with quality art practice, teaching, exhibition, and sales opportunities.

**About The Arc Mid-Hudson:**

The Arc Mid-Hudson is a private not-for-profit agency founded in 1956 by families in Greene, Putnam and Ulster Counties who believed that their children with disabilities should have the same opportunities as their peers. Supporting 1,800 people from preschool through adulthood, our mission is “To empower people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities to achieve and experience the highest quality of life.” We are guided by the core values of: Respect, Integrity, Compassion and Excellence; The Arc Mid-Hudson believes each person is unique and we provide individualized services each program participant. With over 1,700 employees, The Arc Mid-Hudson is one of the largest employers in the area. The Arc Mid-Hudson is the Greene, Putnam and Ulster Counties Chapter of The Arc New York and is accredited by the Council on Quality and Leadership. For more information about The Arc of Ulster-Greene, visit [www.ArcMH.org](http://www.ArcMH.org)