

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

TO: News Editors
DATE: October 2, 2018
CONTACT: Missy Goetschius, Public Relations Director, The Arc of Chemung
607.734.6151 x122 or email GoetschiusML@arcofchemung.org
RE: *New York State Industries for the Disabled, Inc. Honors Area Individuals With Disabilities for Employment Excellence*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Elmira, NY – The month of October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and The Arc of Chemung is pleased to announce that Coley Perry (Elmira), a person supported by the agency, was among 57 statewide 2018 Joslin Outstanding Performers recognized through New York State Industries for the Disabled, Inc.'s (NYSID) 15th annual people-centered awards program. Coley is being recognized for his custodial work through Southern Tier Industries (STI), where he has been employed for two years.

STI, a division of The Arc of Chemung, provides training and employment opportunities to individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. STI is dedicated to developing vocational skills and work habits in order for individuals we support to be employed at local businesses. 127 individuals in Chemung County receive supports from STI. Additionally, there are 93 individuals supported who are employed by a community business and earning a paycheck of their own!

Coley shared, "I like my job because it keeps me busy and earns me money to not only pay my bills but also have spending money for myself and my kids." Employment provides a great source of pride and meaning in the lives of the people we support and we are pleased to have such incredible support from our community businesses, who provide opportunities for career exploration and development, as well as paying jobs for the people we support.

NYSID is a not-for-profit business which administers Preferred Source contracts for products and services in support of state and local government procurement budgets. NYSID's annual Joslin Awards Program celebrates excellence in Preferred Source employment by New Yorkers with disabilities. More than 700 individuals have been named Joslin Outstanding Performers since 2004. All Outstanding Performers receive a certificate of achievement and cash award, and are featured in an annual yearbook.

ABOUT THE ARC OF CHEMUNG

Founded in 1953, The Arc of Chemung is a person-centered, not for profit organization committed to meeting the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in the Chemung County area. The agency provides quality supports and opportunities for individual growth for every person supported by means of education, increased community acceptance, and participation.

The Arc of Chemung supports more than 1,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families annually. Learn more at www.arcofchemung.org. The Arc of Chemung is a chapter of the state agency, The Arc



Coley Perry with Tom Harrigan, Mobile Work Crew Manager

