

*For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities*

**TO:** News Editors  
**DATE:** October 31, 2017  
**CONTACT:** Missy Goetschius, Public Relations Director, The Arc of Chemung  
**CONTACT INFO:** 607.734.6151 x122 or email [GoetschiusML@arcofchemung.org](mailto:GoetschiusML@arcofchemung.org)  
**RE:** Ninth Staff Member Receives Certified Employment Support Professional Certification

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Elmira, NY** – The Arc of Chemung announces that Amanda Erickson, Coordinator of the Community Job Center, recently participated in the national Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) Certification exam, passing, and receiving certification.

Southern Tier Industries (STI), a division of The Arc of Chemung, is dedicated to developing vocational skills and work habits in order for individuals supported to be employed at local businesses. Currently, 172 individuals in Chemung County receive supports from STI. The Agency now has nine STI staff who have earned this credential.

The CESP certification sets a standard of knowledge and distinguishes employment support professionals who have shown they have the skill and competence to perform the requirements of the job. Having a CESP certification: increases the visibility of competent professionals; helps consumers connect with professionals they can trust; creates a standard that defines the roles and responsibilities of employment support professionals; improves employability and provides opportunities for salary and career advancement; legitimizes and enhances professionalism in the field; informs the public and consumers of our commitment to best practices; and validates our commitment to ethical and safety standards.



**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 nearly 800 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families annually. Learn more at [www.arcofchemung.org](http://www.arcofchemung.org). *The Arc of Chemung is a chapter of the state agency, NYSARC, Inc. and is nationally accredited by The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL).*