

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

TO: News Editors
DATE: August 8, 2017
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RE: Four Staff Members Receive Certified Employment Support Professional Certification

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Elmira, NY – The Arc of Chemung announces that four Southern Tier Industries staff members recently participated in the national Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) Certification exam, each passing and receiving certification. Staff members include Sherry Kelly, Vocational Specialist; Kristine Kohler, Vocational Specialist; Lucinda Wood, Job Coach; and Nicole Brown, Supported Employment Manager.

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 has four additional STI staff who earned this credential in 2016.



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. *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).*