

*For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities*

**TO:** News Editors  
**DATE:** October 27, 2016  
**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:** Staff Member Receives State Excellence Award

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Elmira, NY** – The Arc of Chemung announces that Jodi Miller was recently presented with NYSARC, Inc.'s 2016 Thomas A. Maul Direct Support Professional (DSP) Excellence Award, selected from the Central Region.

This prestigious award is presented to a direct support professional in their region who has demonstrated an exemplary level of performance over the course of his/her employment and has consistently demonstrated commitment to improving the quality of life for people who have intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

"Jodi has been with The Arc of Chemung for more than 14 years and embodies the DSP role on a consistent basis by putting the people we support first; promoting good health and safety; encouraging community inclusion; and maintaining positive relationships with the people we support," said Eileen Berleue, Residential Supervisor, in her nomination of Jodi. Berleue added, "Jodi respects the dignity of those she supports, and is their biggest advocate in regards to their individual human and civil rights. Jodi takes advantage of every opportunity to learn new skills related to her job duties and communicate what she learns to others, creating an atmosphere of team building that improves workplace performance. As a strongly motivated staff member, she takes initiative to lead with a clear vision and inspires her coworkers to do the same."

"Eileen Berleue, who had nominated Jodi, was presented with this award in 2009 and serves not only as a role model to the individuals we support, but to the staff members she supervises," said Joanne Knapp, The Arc of Chemung's Residential Services Director. "Eileen demonstrates commitment and dedication to this field through the coaching and mentoring of Direct Support Professionals, like Jodi Miller. The Residential Program is pleased to have both Eileen and Jodi as part of our team!" added Knapp.





**The Arc of Chemung**  
711 Sullivan Street, Elmira, NY 14901  
P: 607.734.6151  
F: 607.734.2943  
[www.arcofchemung.org](http://www.arcofchemung.org)

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#### **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).*

#### **ABOUT NYSARC**

NYSARC, Inc. is the largest not-for-profit in New York State serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The 53 Chapters comprising NYSARC, Inc. are located in every county in New York State. The Organization supports over 60,000 individuals, employs over 30,000 people and has a membership of over 110,000.

