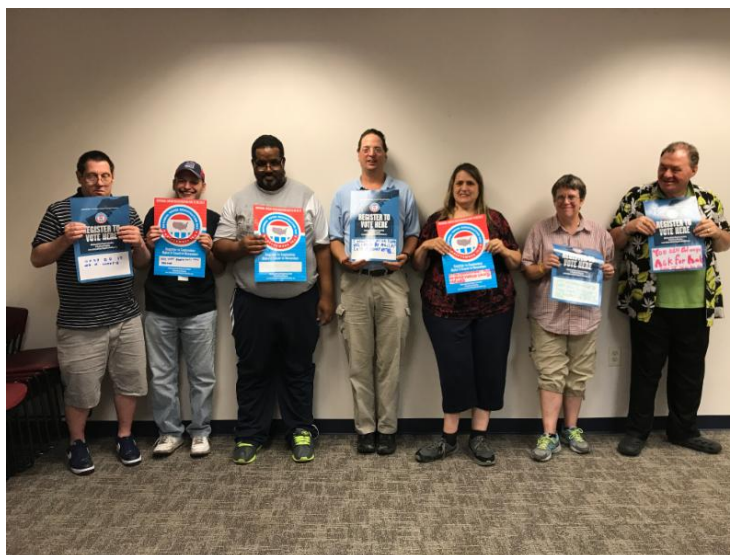




Self-Advocates Promote Electoral Participation

At their September 26, Advisory Board meeting, members of the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network participated in National Voter Registration Day. This is a national holiday, observed on the fourth Tuesday of September, that celebrates democracy. It was first observed in 2012 and it seeks to create broad awareness of voter registration opportunities to reach voters who may not register otherwise. Using the hashtag #NationalVoterRegistrationDay, the image of Self-Advocates with their reasons for voting was shared on all of The Arc of New Jersey's social media pages. Don't forget, if you haven't done so already, be sure to download a copy of The Arc of NJ's 2017 GOTV Guide which is available at www.gotvnj.org.



Long-Time Project HIRE Staffer Retires

After assisting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities find and retain employment in the community for the past 28 years, Maddi Sink is retiring from her role as Coordinator of Field Services for Project HIRE. Maddi was the North West Region Coordinator for both school transition and adult services and she always found ways to work with families and funders to achieve positive outcomes in difficult situations. Pictured left with Executive Director Tom Baffuto (L) and Assistant Executive Director Michael Prendergast (R), Maddi was celebrated during her retirement lunch in September.

Hundreds Turn Out for NJ SAP Conference

The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project hosted their 34th Annual Conference on

Saturday, September 16, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Somerset. Attended by more than 350 people, the Conference was an opportunity to attend workshops, hear from featured keynote speakers and socialize. The event's theme was United in Self-Advocacy and included information sessions on emergency preparedness, bullying, transportation and legislative advocacy. To view more photos from the event, visit our [Facebook page](#).



October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and an important opportunity to recognize individuals with I/DD who work and contribute to the workforce. With that in mind, The Arc of New Jersey will be highlighting individuals throughout the month who are employed in the community and who love the work that they do. Looking to learn more about NDEAM? Visit the [Department of Labor's web site](#).

The Arc to Bestow Awards at Annual Dinner

Each year, The Arc of New Jersey honors the "best of the best" in support, services and advocacy for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. It is with great pleasure that we announce the 2017 award recipients:

- **Legislator of the Year - Senator Steven Oroho (R-24)**
- **Legislator of the Year - Assemblyman John McKeon (D-27)**
- **President's Award - Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.**
- **Spirit of The Arc Award - Liz Shea**
- **Professional of the Year - Kevin Walsh, Ph.D.**
- **Healthcare Professional of the Year - The Arc Mercer Healthcare Center**
- **Volunteer of the Year - Christopher Corrigan**
- **Employer of the Year - Wawa of Neptune**
- **Bill Sackter Award - Colleen Watkins**
- **Distinguished Community Service - The Shining Stars Network**
- **Martin Papish Award - Pat Jones**
- **Communicator's Award - The Arc of Essex County**



The 2017 Annual Awards Dinner is scheduled for **Monday, Oct. 16** at the Imperia in Somerset, New Jersey. The event includes cocktails, dinner and the awards presentation. [Click here](#) for additional information and to register for this wonderful event.

Check Out These Upcoming Webinars & Events

Turning Point Program at Bergen Community College Tour

Friday, October 6 at 10 am

Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute for a tour of The Turning Point Program at Bergen Community College. The Turning Point Program is a two-year post-secondary experience for young adults with intellectual disabilities

interested in continuing their education. The program utilizes student-centered planning, enhanced academic and peer mentoring support to provide an inclusive college experience.



Mercer County Community College Tour
[Saturday, October 7 at 10 am](#)

Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute for a tour of Mercer County Community College's DREAM program. Students and their families will have an opportunity to visit Mercer County Community College and learn about the different aspects of a college experience. The DREAM program is student-centered, which means that each student's course of study is determined by the student's goals and needs.

Webinar: Decision Making Supports and Guardianship
[Tuesday, October 10 at 6 pm](#)

Reaching the age of majority (18 years of age) means under state law, an individual is no longer a minor. As such, the person has the right and responsibility to make legal choices. For some young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, this can be an exciting opportunity for increased independence. However, there may be concerns about how to best support a person's self-determination when making life decisions such as health care or in financial management. Hosted by The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute and presented by Robin Shaffert, Senior Executive of Individual and Family Supports at The Arc of the U.S., attendees will learn both informal and legal options to help assist young adults with I/DD in decision making.

Webinar - Lunch & Learn: Navigating the System of State Services for Children 14-21
[Tuesday, October 17 at 12 pm](#)

Join us as we discuss state services for children under 21 and transition into the system of adult services for 21+. We will give an overview on the importance of SSI and Medicaid.

Planning for Adult Life FREE Parent Forum and Opportunity Expo at New Road School of Somerset
[Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9 am to 1 pm](#)

These events are held throughout the state and consists of a Parent Forum that includes workshops (45-60 minutes) on specific topics including support coordination, the continuum of community services, financial planning, eligibility requirements, and where to find help. The Opportunity Expo features a variety of exhibitors including: state and county government entities, community service providers, service coordinators, local health care support and recreation providers, additional information and referral services.

Equal Justice Talks Webinar: Making the Connection & Maximizing the Results: Investigative Interviews of People with Developmental Disabilities
[Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 1 pm](#)

Please join us to hear Vincent Giardina, Retired Chief of Investigations for the Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities provide a one hour overview of effective interview techniques. Drawing on over 30 years of expertise in this field, Mr. Giardina will discuss effective techniques when working with a person with a developmental, cognitive disability that affects their communication skills, providing practical tips and valuable information. This webinar series is brought to you by The Arc of NJ Criminal Justice Advocacy Program.

Need help or more information? Want to become active in our advocacy network?

Visit our website to access lots of great information that can help you navigate service systems, find resources and keep you informed as to the important issues facing children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Join our advocacy network to add your voice to the thousands who are working hard to promote and protect the quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

[Visit our website](#)

[Join an Advocacy Network](#)

The Arc of New Jersey | 732.246.2525 | info@arcnj.org | www.arcnj.org

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