



UPDATE FROM TRENTON

In February, I/DD Legislation Passes Assembly & Self-Advocates Meet with DHS Commissioner

The Arc of New Jersey is happy to report that the full Assembly recently passed two pieces of legislation supported by our organization. This includes, A4482 which establishes a "Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Violence Against Persons with Developmental Disabilities" and A4547 which requires collection and reporting of information concerning crimes against the elderly and people with disabilities. These bills will now head to the Senate where they will need to be voted on in Committee and then by the full body before they can move to the Governor's Desk for his signature or veto. To continue reading, [click here](#).



Highland Park DECA Club Supports Family Institute



The Arc of New Jersey would like to thank the Highland Park High School DECA Club who generously donated last month to The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute. The DECA Club donated 10% of the profits from the school store during DECA Week in October. Pictured from left to right is Executive Director Tom Baffuto, Director of Retail for the DECA Club Rachel Powlen, and The Arc of New Jersey's Family Institute Director Lisa Ford. Interested in donating to The Arc of New Jersey? [Click here](#) to support our organization!

Celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and The Arc of New Jersey has a lot planned to celebrate this occasion, including an advocacy day at the State House. This will give

Self-Advocates the opportunity to interact with their legislators and talk about the current issues affecting their lives. If you're interested in learning more about Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, check out our [web site](#) which has a number of free resources. This includes, [social media tools](#) you can use to educate others and spark discussion about people with developmental disabilities, and a [DD Awareness Family Ambassador Kit](#). If you're doing something special for DD Awareness Month, we'd love to hear about it! Shoot us an email at advocacy@arcnj.org and we may feature your advocacy efforts on our social media pages.



News Archives

Calendar of Events

Developmental Disability Awareness Month



Social Media Tools



Registration for Self-Advocacy Luncheon Now Open



The 14th Annual "Spring Into Action" Luncheon will take place on Saturday, April 13, 2019 and registration is now open. The event, hosted by The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project and the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network includes an awards presentation, lunch and networking opportunities. This year's Luncheon will take place at The Imperia in Somerset from 10 am to 2 pm. The registration deadline is March 11, 2019 so make sure you reserve your tickets today by [clicking here](#). You can also register by mail. [Click here](#) to download the registration form.

Check Out These Upcoming Webinars & Events

Lunch & Learn Webinar Safety Series: Supporting the Village: Helping Parents and Caregivers to Support Youths' Healthy Sexual Development, a 3-part series

[Tuesday, March 12 at 12 pm](#)

Part 2 - 7th-12th grade

As parents and caregivers, we worry about the health and wellbeing of our children. When we look through the lens of intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD), sometimes we get even more worried about lots of different things, like sex and sexuality. It can be difficult to know how or when to talk to children with I/DD about sex, particularly because we are afraid that they may be victimized. This 3-part webinar series is designed to increase parents' and caregivers' comfort in talking about sex and sexuality with their children. We will discuss the social, physiological, and emotional changes that happen before, during, and after puberty. We will provide tools and skills for parents and caregivers to support the development, independence, and success of their children.



Overview of Services from the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) - Part 2

[Wednesday, March 20 at 6 pm](#)

As students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families begin to think about the transition from high school to adult life, they often wonder about what services are available in the adult world to support someone with I/DD to live as independently as possible. Join us for Part 2 of this informative webinar by Nkechi Ugoji, Senior Coordinator, Transition, Policy & Training for the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities as she discusses what DDD has to offer and how to plan for the transition to DDD services.

College Tour: Career & Community Studies Program Tour - Mercer County

[Thursday, March 21 at 6 pm](#)

Calling all students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute for a tour of the Career & Community Studies Program at The College of New Jersey. The Career & Community Studies Program is a college-based, liberal studies program

designed to prepare students with a disability (ages 18-25) for adult life through academics, career discovery and peer socialization as part of a diverse community of learners. During the tour you will have the opportunity to visit the school and speak with program staff to learn about the different aspects of the program.

Equal Justice Talks Webinar Series: Understanding the Impact of Collateral Consequences of a Sexual Criminal Conviction on a Person with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

[Thursday, March 21 at 2 pm](#)

Please join us for a one-hour webinar as Professor Heather Cucolo, Esq., co-owner of the Mental Disability Law and Policy Associates Education Company, provides an overview of the issue of "collateral consequences" which can result from conviction for a sexual offense.

College Tour: College Steps Program at Community College of Morris

[Friday, March 22 at 11 am](#)

Calling all students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute for a tour of the College Steps program at the Community College of Morris. The mission of College Steps is to provide supplemental support for students living with social, communication and learning disabilities. The primary goal of College Steps is to support the unique needs of students while preparing them for meaningful careers and increased autonomy after college. College Steps students are supported with a framework of supports in four core content areas: Academic Enrichment, Social Integration, Living and Independence, and Pre-Employment Skills. College Steps supports high school transition students, age 16-21 years and college students ages 18-26.

Webinar: New Jersey Department of Human Services Bureau of Guardianship Services: An Overview of Guardianship

[Wednesday, March 27 at 1 pm](#)

At age 18, all individuals, including those with developmental disabilities, reach the legal age of majority. This means that parents can no longer make decisions legally on behalf of an adult child, regardless of the nature of the individual's disability and regardless of whether or not the individual still lives with the family. Some families may want to consider guardianship as an option for their family member. Join us as the New Jersey Bureau of Guardianship Services (BGS) discuss guardianship options, the process of obtaining guardianship and ways BGS can help.

College Tour: Raritan Valley Community College Tour

[Friday, March 29 at 10 am](#)

Calling all students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute for a tour of The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC); a partnership program of The Arc of Somerset and Hunterdon Counties and RVCC. You will have an opportunity to visit the campus and learn about the different aspects of a college experience. The Achievement Center is student centered, with a recommendation of core skills classes important to future success. Students and families will learn about the curriculum, support methods and individualization for each student's needs and goals. Areas of study include: Academic, Personal and Career Development, Campus and Civic Engagement and Social Skill Building.

Transition Conference: Free Parent Forum & Opportunity Expo (Central Jersey)

[Saturday, March 30 at 9 am](#)

This expo will start with an opening session on why planning is critical and how to start a plan for your child with I/DD. The second session will explain SSI and Medicaid and why you need to apply. Attendees will then have a break to visit with our service providers who will have information tables set up. For the last session of the day, participants can choose one of three workshops focusing on different areas of interest.

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](#)

STAY CONNECTED

DONATE NOW!

