



For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities

Achieve with us.

November 2016

NJ Delegates Attend The Arc US Convention

The Arc National Convention was held October 26-29 in Orlando, FL. It was held in conjunction with Inclusion International and there were representatives from 46 countries in attendance. We had 30 representatives from The Arc of NJ and local county chapters attend.

The three general keynote sessions focused on families, self-advocates and siblings. Reviews from the breakout sessions were positive and there was a wide variety of topics and issues addressed. On Friday evening, The Arc Catalyst Awards dinner was held where some amazing people were honored including Nike, Google and the cast of A&E's Born This Way.

At the annual business meeting, the delegates approved three revised position statements and elected a new slate of officers, including the new president of The Arc of the US, Elise McMillan from Tennessee.



The NJ delegation in Orlando, FL

Project HIRE Selected for Project Search Program

Beginning this fall, Overlook Medical Center is hosting nine high school students with significant disabilities as part of an innovative and evidence-based high school transition program. The Project SEARCH-Overlook Medical Center endeavor is the result of unprecedented collaboration between a major business, the state of New Jersey, a county Workforce Development Board, and the local public education system.

The partners involved in the project include: Overlook Medical Center, Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC), the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, **The Arc of New Jersey Project HIRE**, NJTIP at Rutgers, the Union County Workforce Development Board, and the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities.

The one-year program provides the students with a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration and hands-on training. Students will spend a small part of their day in the on-site classroom receiving instruction, and the bulk of their day at assigned internships. The students will participate in at least two internship rotations in various departments at Overlook during the school year including Emergency Services, Materials Management, Environmental Services, Surgical Services, Infection Prevention, Nursing Education, and Food Services.

The primary objective is to secure competitive employment for every student at the completion of the one-year program -- either at the host business or at another business in the community.

UPDATE FROM THE STATE HOUSE

Bills Impacting People with I/DD See Legislative Action

In October, The Arc of New Jersey supported a number of bills making their way through the legislative process. This included Assembly



Long-Time Staff Member, Project HIRE Dir. Retires

Long-time staffer,
and current Project

HIRE Director
Frank DeLucca
retired last month



process. The included Assembly 926 which changes pejorative terminology referring to persons with certain disabilities or substance use disorders. The bill employs "person-first" language, to ensure that persons are referred to as having certain disabilities, rather than being defined by their disabilities. These proposed changes are in line with The Arc of New Jersey's beliefs and our organization's ongoing efforts to promote respectful language. The bill received unanimous support and was voted out of the Assembly Human Services Committee. Additionally, we also supported Assembly Bill 3432 which would establish a task force to study and make recommendations about the mobility and support services needs of adults with autism. The Task Force will, among other things, review current policies and recommend ways to alleviate current transportation barriers and obstacles. This bill was voted out of the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee. (To continue reading, [click here](#).)



years of service with our organization. Frank began his tenure at The Arc of New Jersey in 1990 as a job coach. After two years in that role, Frank became a job developer in multiple counties throughout the state and then in 1998 he became the program's first Coordinator of Field Services. In 2001, Frank was again promoted to



Project HIRE Director Frank DeLuca, left, retired last month from The Arc of New Jersey after more than 25 years of service with the organization. He's pictured above with Executive Director Tom Baffuto, right.

Ritchey Takes the Helm of NJ Self-Advocacy Project

The Arc of New Jersey is pleased to announce that Ashley Ritchey will now serve as Director of the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project (NJSAP). As a member of the NJSAP team for about the last six years, Ashley previously served as the Training & Technical Assistance Specialist. As she takes on this new role, we asked Ashley for a sneak peek into what she sees for the future of NJSAP.



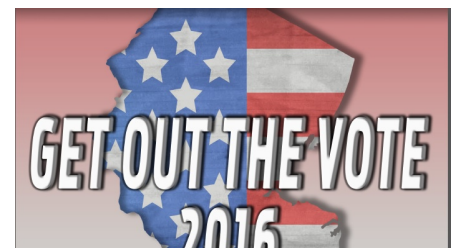
Ashley Ritchey, pictured above, recently took over as Director for the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project.

"I am incredibly excited to become the Director of the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project (NJSAP). Having spent the last five years working as a trainer and group facilitator, I recognize that self-advocates are eager to provide valuable input and express their perspective on issues of importance. The NJSAP team is committed to facilitating opportunities for this input and ensuring that it is incorporated into the mission of the program. A crucial aspect of my vision for the Self-Advocacy Project revolves around amplifying the visibility and efficacy of our Statewide Self-Advocacy Network." (To

Assistant Director; a role he held until 2013 when he was named Project HIRE Director. Before his departure, Frank said: "The most satisfying thing about my time at The Arc of New Jersey is knowing that people's lives, people I may have never met, are richer because Project HIRE helped them find employment in the community. I'm proud to have been a part of an organization that can say that." The Arc of New Jersey congratulates Frank on his retirement and thanks him for his many years of outstanding service to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Arc Publishes Get Out the Vote Guide, Web Site

The Arc of New Jersey's 2016 Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Guide, which aims to help families and self-advocates in advance of Election Day, is available now! At the polls this year, New Jersey residents will cast a vote for President of the United States and Representatives in Congress. Our Guide includes important dates, vote by mail information and outlines your rights in the voting booth. In addition, the GOTV Guide features an "In Their Own Words" section where family members and self-advocates explain



and efficacy of our Statewide Self-Advocacy Network. (To continue reading, [click here.](#))

The Arc of New Jersey to Bestow Honors at Annual Dinner in Dec.



Pictured above: Members of the Community Living Education Project who were honored at the 2015 Awards Dinner.

The Arc of New Jersey is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2016 Annual Awards, honoring individuals, organizations and corporations for their efforts on behalf of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

- **President's Award - The Special Needs Ambassador Program at Saint Barnabas Medical Center**
- **Spirit of The Arc Award - Betty E. Hoehne**
- **Spirit of The Arc Award - Thomas Peterson**
- **Legislator of the Year - Assemblyman Gordon Johnson (D-37)**
- **Professional of the Year - Elizabeth Manley**
- **Professional of the Year - David Vinokurov**
- **Volunteer of the Year - Pamela Corrigan**
- **Employer of the Year - Ortho Diagnostics**
- **Bill Sackter Award - Andrew Monti**
- **Distinguished Community Service - Brookdale Community College**
- **Martin Papish Award - Laura Williams**
- **Educator of the Year - Katherine Cascioli**

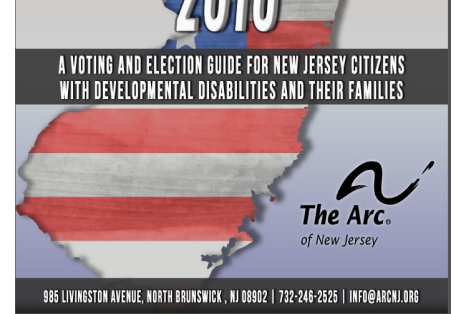
The Annual Awards Dinner will take place on Tuesday, December 6th at 6 pm at the Imperia in Somerset New Jersey. For more information about purchasing tickets or for sponsorship and ad journal opportunities, [click here.](#)

Check Out Webinars, Events Throughout November

Career & Community Studies Program Tour - Hunterdon County

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.

why casting a ballot is a must this November. Be sure to [download a copy](#) and check out our [web-exclusive content](#) before Election Day!



Self-Advocates Learn Yoga, Healthy Tips at Reservation

The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project visited Masker's Barn at Watchung Reservation, as part of the Healthy Lifestyles Project (HLP), on Wednesday, October 5. HLP is a project of The Arc of New Jersey and receives funding through a grant awarded by the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey. The goal of the project is to provide people with I/DD with functional education about the importance of health choices related to diet, exercise, and stress management. The event at Watchung Reservation included adaptive yoga, a Get Fit Session, lunch, and a group trail walk.



Pictured above: Self-Advocates enjoy an day of education and fun at Watchung Reservation.

Chapters of The Arc Close Out Walkathon Season



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.

[Saturday, November 5 at 9:30 am](#)

Webinar - Planning for the Future: The Importance of a Special Needs Trust

The ability to understand and communicate your needs and wants to others is a skill all people need. Individuals who know how to Self-Advocate are more likely to have a sense of control over their lives and feel more confident and competent. Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute as we discuss Self-Advocacy, how to promote it and tips for increasing parent and student involvement during an IEP meeting.

[Tuesday, November 15 at 6 pm](#)

Caring For YOU! A Stress Management and Alternative Options Workshop

Caring for a loved one can put a strain on even the most resilient person. If you're a caregiver, you must take steps to preserve your own health and well-being. Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute, The Arc of Somerset and The Arc of Monmouth for workshops designed to help you, the caregiver, learn different ways to alleviate stress. Presenter: Dawn Mitten, is a Massage Therapist and Reiki Practitioner. Dawn is also a parent with a Special needs child.

[Tuesday, November 15 at 6 pm at The Arc of Somerset](#)

[Thursday, November 17 at 6:30 pm at The Arc of Monmouth](#)

Webinar - Walking Through the Timeline for 2017 Graduates Aging Out of the School System

Join us as Nkechi Ugoji of the Division of Developmental Disabilities will discuss and explain the newest release of the timeline for accessing services and supports. Nkechi will discuss the steps to ensure eligibility, visioning for the future, selection of a support coordinator, and creating a service plan. This webinar is geared for students, their families, and professionals in the field.

[Wednesday, November 16 at 6 pm](#)

Webinar - The 2017 Medicare Part D Changes for Persons Who Have Both Medicare and Medicaid (The Dual Eligibles)

Beginning on January 1, 2017, there will be some changes in Medicare Part D, the federal drug benefit that is used by most dual eligibles (persons who have both Medicaid and Medicare) to obtain their prescription medications. This webinar is for everyone who wants to know about Medicare Part D for the dual eligibles, including employees of provider agencies serving people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), staff from DDD, family members, and health care professionals. The webinar will discuss the details of the changes and how they will affect individuals with developmental disabilities who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.

[Friday, November 18 at 10 am](#)

Webinar - Advancing Opportunities: Student Success Center

With unemployment and underemployment so prevalent among individuals with disabilities, college, employment and career skills are imperative to succeeding in the postsecondary landscape as a young adult. During this presentation you will learn about Advancing Opportunities, their approach to postsecondary supports in the Student Success Center, and how to sort out adult services so you can clearly see your student's pathway. Advancing Opportunities provides an array of services to help students reach their fullest potential and plan for a future that excites them. It offers: hands-on assistive technology training, college coaching services, college preparedness programs and self-advocacy skills training.

[Tuesday, November 29 at 6 pm](#)



Pictured Above: The Arc of New Jersey Executive Director Tom Baffuto, left, attends The Arc of Cape May Walkathon on Saturday, October 1. Pictured center: The Arc of Cape May Executive Director Pat Merk.



The Arc of Union's Executive Director Frank Caragher, left, stands beside walk participants on Saturday, October 8.

Step Up For The Arc is an annual statewide initiative of The Arc of New Jersey. To close out the season, The Arcs of Cape May, Union, and Atlantic all hosted Walkathons in October. Check out photos above and below from their great events. If you missed your local county walk, but would still like to contribute, be sure to contact the [local county Chapter](#) in your area.

PLANNED GIVING CORNER

Protecting Your Tax Records

As Hurricane Matthew pummeled eastern Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, the IRS published IR-2016-128 to show you how to protect tax records. And while you may not live in the affected states, it is still a good idea to make sure your tax records are protected in case of an emergency.

Emergency Plans - Both individuals and businesses should have an emergency plan. For any number of reasons persons and businesses may need to evacuate. You should plan an evacuation route in the event that an evacuation order applies to you. Individuals could use a safe, safety deposit box or other method for secure storage of tax records. Businesses should maintain backups of important local network data offsite in order to facilitate recovery. Your emergency plan should be updated each year.



Electronic Copies - Scan or save PDFs of your tax returns, financial statements, certificates and insurance policy declaration pages. Keep the electronic copy in a safe or safety deposit box. You may save electronic records to a USB flash

Webinar - People with Intellectual Disabilities and Sexual Behavior Problems: A Criminal Justice and Community Support Approach

Dr. Robin Wilson is a researcher, educator and board certified clinical psychologist with a long and distinguished career working with individuals with sexual and social behavior issues. This one hour webinar will provide an overview addressing the specific needs of people with intellectual disabilities and other cognitive limitations and will address ways to optimize safety in the community.

[Thursday, December 1 at 1:00 pm](#)

deposit box. You may save electronic records to a USB flash drive, CD or DVD.

To continue reading, [click here](#).

Help Us Keep The Arc of NJ Strong!

The Arc of New Jersey relies on charitable contributions to continue our strong advocacy. Please help keep our efforts moving forward by making a donation to The Arc of New Jersey.

There are several ways you can help us:

1. Make a donation at www.arcnj.org.
2. If your company has a matching gift program, be sure to register your gift so you can double your contribution.
3. Make your donation count all year long by becoming a monthly Sustainer. All you have to do is note on your online donation that you would like it to be a monthly contribution.
4. Donate a vehicle by calling (877) 272-2270.
5. Shop through Amazon Smile. Simply select The Arc of New Jersey from the charities at [Amazon Smile](#), and shop like you always do at Amazon.

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