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Career Connections Honors Solid Waste Authority

HERKIMER — Career Connections, the employment division of Arc Herkimer, honored the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority, located in Utica, NY with the 2017 Employer of the Year Award.

The award recognizes the Authority's outstanding continued commitment to providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The Authority also received a 2017 Central New York Employment Recognition by the Central New York Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) during National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October, which celebrates inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the workplace.

Dedicated to advancing solid waste solutions in an environmentally friendly way, the Authority has pioneered the greening of Oneida and Herkimer Counties. This includes a regional recycling program that is regarded as one of the most expansive in the country. As a result, the Authority has helped the community become a national model for solid waste management systems.

The Authority also has a model workforce that integrates individuals with disabilities into the work team. Career Connections Director Robin Mattox said, "One employee in particular, Paul D'Amelio, who is supported by Arc Herkimer, has been employed by the Authority for over 25 years. Paul has become an integral part of the recycling team. He has a full-time job and receives benefits, including retirement. His supervisor, Dan Dowman, is particularly wonderful in that he works to support Paul to



Staff from Arc Herkimer presented the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority with the Career Connections 2017 Employer of the Year award. Those on hand for the presentation include: Kevin Crosley, Arc Herkimer president/CEO; Paul D'Amelio, Recycling Center employee; Dan Dowman, Authority Recycling Center manager; Catherine Loomis, Career Connections assistant director; Bill Rabbia, Authority executive director; Jodi Tuttle, Authority Human Resources coordinator; Shawn Schultz, Arc Herkimer VP - Supports & Services; Brittany Edwards, Career Connections employment service specialist; and Robin Mattox, Career Connections director.

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maintain his independence and employment. Ultimately, this means very much to Paul. We strive to find partners to help us build community, and the Authority certainly is a shining example of a partner who helps fulfill our mission to empower people and enrich lives.”

Career Connections assists individuals in obtaining meaningful employment based on each person’s interests, skills, and needs. Professional staff can assist with career exploration, internships, job placement, work readiness training, employment readiness skills, transition youth to adult services, job coaching services, community based work assessments, and computer training.

For more information regarding the benefits of utilizing services, contact Career Connections at (315) 574-7909 or find more information online at www.archerkimer.org.

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