



Since 1953...Creating opportunities for individual successes

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Immediate news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGENCY PARTNERS WITH COMMUNITY EMPLOYERS ON THE BRIDGE TO EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

Elmira, NY – Chemung ARC recently received funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (www.arc.gov) to launch the Bridge to Employment project. This project will provide pre-employment skills to individuals with disabilities so they can successfully enter the regional workforce becoming productive, contributing members of their community.

The Bridge to Employment project is very similar to Chemung ARC's collaborative project with GST BOCES at Arnot Mall - the Community Job Center - that services students, providing them with classroom and hands on experiences that prepare them for the world of work. The Bridge to Employment project looks to emulate that program model with a focus on serving 18 adults in Chemung County.

"While this project is to be implemented by Chemung ARC, via our Southern Tier Industries division, it will also rely on area employers as business partners to achieve its desired outcome – community employment", explains Chemung ARC Executive Director Dr. Mike Doherty. "Therefore, existing and developing relationships with the business community are the key to success. Fortunately, STI has a long history of working relationships with community employers such as Bethany Village, Wendy's, Walmart, Sam's Club and Seneca Beverage," Mike adds.

Marcia Weber, executive director of Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board, the region's office for the Appalachian Regional Commission, said the local grant review committee cited the previous success of Chemung ARC as a reason for their support of the new project. "Putting people to work is a goal of the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the committee knows that Chemung ARC helps its clients and the region by doing just that," Marcia said.

The unique collaboration between partners (Chemung ARC, the Appalachian Regional Commission and local employers) brings together vocational training, human services and the employment sector. Curriculum will include both group and individual instruction, allowing each person enrolled in the project to progress at their own individual pace. Instruction will be delivered by trained vocational staff whose time will be dedicated to this project, enhanced by guest speakers and other interactive activities that will prepare the participants for community employment. To learn more about Bridge to Employment, please contact Chemung ARC at (607) 734-6151.

Founded in 1953, Chemung ARC is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization devoted to the well being of Chemung County residents who have developmental disabilities. In 2010, its fifty-seventh year of operation, the agency serves more than 750 people and their families annually.

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