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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CAREERS' CLIENT AND EMPLOYER RECEIVE AWARDS AT NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH BREAKFAST**

**Valhalla, NY** - CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. (CAREERS) announces that both a client and an employer received special recognition awards at this year's Achievement Awards Breakfast. Christopher Meyers, who has worked at Curry Automotive for 18 years, received the Longevity Award. Stop & Shop received the Employer Recognition Award for hiring 12 people with disabilities to work in its Port Chester store within the past year. The breakfast has been held annually in October since 1986 to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month. It is sponsored by the Westchester County Office of the Disabled and the Westchester Employment Network (WEN), a consortium of organizations that serve individuals with disabilities.

County Commissioner Robert Astorino addressed the hundreds of people representing public agencies, employers, and disabled individuals in Westchester County who attended the event held Thursday, October 14, 2010 at the Doral Arrowwood Conference Center in Rye Brook, NY. Similar events are held on the same day throughout the country in honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month to recognize the workforce accomplishments of people with disabilities.

Christopher Meyers is a maintenance porter at Curry Automotive in Peekskill. He began working for Curry 18 years ago. Working side-by-side with his supervisor through the years, he has learned how to help maintain Curry's facilities expanding the scope of his work to include making repairs within the facility. "Despite his disability, Chris has overcome many challenges and is a loyal, dedicated employee, who never misses a day of work," CAREERS' Executive Director Tina Cornish-Lauria said.

Stop & Shop Supermarkets have been very proactive in hiring individuals with disabilities, and the Port Chester Store, in particular, has been very supportive of CAREERS' program. Throughout Westchester, Stop & Shop hired 23 people with disabilities to work in its stores last year; of those 12 were assigned to work in the Port Chester store. Store Supervisor, Jamie Smith, who was primarily responsible for hiring CAREERS' clients, accepted the award on behalf of Stop & Shop.

Since 1987, CAREERS has provided job placement and support services to people with disabilities in Westchester and Putnam Counties and made **over 1,800 individual job placements and provided services well over 6,000 people**. CAREERS' mission is to insure that all disabled individuals find sustained, meaningful employment in the communities in which they live. They work one-on-one with each client and employer to facilitate ongoing success in the workplace, and help those with disabilities reach their maximum level of self-support and self-reliance. All of CAREERS services are provided free of charge to clients and employers.