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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Westchester County Hosts Disability Mentoring Day Provides Job Insights for Disabled Westchester Residents

White Plains, New York Disabled residents from throughout Westchester County were given the opportunity to work in a field that interested them as CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. (CAREERS), Westchester County Office for the Disabled, and ACCES-VR coordinated Westchester County's Inaugural Disability Mentoring Day on October 17. County Executive Rob Astorino endorsed the event, which paired mentors from throughout Westchester County Departments with disabled individuals interested in learning about what it takes to be successful in a variety of fields.

Westchester and Putnam Counties are among the 200 locations across the country participating in National Disability Mentoring Day on October 17th. The event connects nearly 16,500 students and job seekers with disabilities to thousands of employers nationwide each year.

"We are very excited that Westchester County has so enthusiastically supported Disability Mentoring Day," remarked CAREERS Executive Director Tina Cornish-Lauria. "It is a great opportunity for disabled workers to experience the workplace first-hand, while providing an opportunity for employers to appreciate the attributes this population brings to the workplace."



CAREERS for People with Disabilities coordinated Westchester County's Inaugural Disability Mentoring Day with the support of Michael Orth of the Department of Community Mental Health (left), County Executive Rob Astorino (center) and Tanya Martinez, Human Rights Commission, (right). Jennifer Berry from YAI and Nathaniel Klein from CAREERS were among the individuals mentored by Westchester County employees.

Individuals with disabilities from CAREERS, Institute of Applied Human Dynamics, Young Adult Institute, WARC and ACCESS-VR paired with volunteer County mentors. Westchester County Departments participating included Public Safety, Emergency Services, Community Mental Health, Parks and Recreation and the Office for Women, among others. Participants worked side by side with mentors for several hours performing tasks that included scanning, clerical duties, mail delivery, drafting letters, answering phones and data entry among others.

“Special thanks to County Executive Astorino and his staff, as well as Evan Latainer from the Westchester County Office for the Disabled and Gwenn Canfield from ACCES-VR, for encouraging a fulfilling and interesting day for all participants,” Tina Cornish-Lauria said. “Everyone involved enjoyed the experience and we look forward to partnering with Westchester County again next year.

CAREERS client Judith Stern spent the morning in the County Executive’s Office, learning what it takes to keep the busy office running smoothly. Judith helped with mail delivery, copying, scanning, shredding and filing, as well as getting a tour of the 9th floor of the County Office building and meeting the County Executive. Mentor Dawn Falco was so impressed with Judith’s skills, she passed along Judith’s resume to other County Department heads.

About CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc.

Since 1987, CAREERS has provided job placement and support services to people with disabilities in Westchester and Putnam Counties, and provided services to over 2,200 other disabled individuals. CAREERS’ mission is to insure that all disabled individuals find sustained, meaningful employment in the communities in which they live. We 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.

For additional information about how CAREERS helps disabled individuals, or employers in need of qualified help, contact CAREERS’ Valhalla office, which serves central and lower Westchester at 914-741-8500, or the Carmel office, which serves northern Westchester and Putnam Counties, at 845-225-8007. For more information, please visit www.careersforpeoplewithdisabilities.org.

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