The Arc
Allegany-Steuben
New York

Achieve with us.®

Media Release

For Immediate Release by Paula Bernstein

Contact: Paula Bernstein, Development Director
(585) 593-5700 ext. 533 – paula.bernstein@thearcas.org

The Arc Allegany-Steuben Honors Jason Zigenfus as 2026 NYSID Outstanding Performer

BATH- The Arc Allegany-Steuben proudly recognized Jason Zigenfus as its 2026 New York State Industries for the Disabled (NYSID) Outstanding Performer during a special luncheon held October 26, 2026, at One Arc Way in Bath.

Now in its 23rd year, the NYSID Outstanding Performance Awards Program celebrates people with disabilities who have overcome personal challenges and achieved meaningful success through employment. Since its inception in 2004, the program has honored more than 1,150 people employed at NYSID member agencies across New York State.

The program's impact extends far beyond the awards themselves. Since 2004, 54,296 people with disabilities have been employed through the program, contributing 3.8 million hours of employment and earning $94.3 million in wages. Total NYSID sales have reached $347 million.

"Those numbers are impressive, but behind every number is a person. A person with talents, aspirations, challenges, and the desire to contribute. A person whose life can be changed when given the opportunity to work, to succeed, and to be recognized for their abilities. And that's exactly why we're here today," said Christopher Koehler, Vice President of Business Operations at The Arc Allegany-Steuben.

Jason was one of 44 honorees in the NYSID Class of 2026 Outstanding Performers, announced during NYSID's Annual Meeting on October 21, 2026.

Jacob N. Roloson, P.E., Resident Engineer at the Coopers Plains facility, shared the following about Jason: "Jason takes great pride in his work and shows up early each day with a positive attitude and is ready to get to work. His perseverance and work ethic have proven that he can overcome anything he sets his mind to. He has really become part of our family here."

Jason's story reflects the remarkable transformation over the past 50 years in how society views and supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). His recognition highlights the importance of meaningful employment, workplace inclusion, and opportunities for people to demonstrate their abilities and contribute to their communities.

The Arc
Allegany-Steuben
New York

Achieve with us.®

Jason joined The Arc Allegany-Steuben in August 2007. Since then, he has continued to develop his skills, strengthen his confidence, and establish himself as a reliable and dedicated employee.

In her nomination, Rebecca Shutt, Business Manager at Stitched INK, highlighted the qualities that make Jason deserving of this recognition. The NYSID Outstanding Performance Awards Program celebrates more than workplace skills and accomplishments; it recognizes the perseverance, courage, and sense of purpose that meaningful employment can inspire.

Jason's journey is a testament to the power of encouragement, support, and opportunity. As he has grown in confidence and strengthened his abilities, he has demonstrated what true inclusion looks like: creating a workplace where people are welcomed, valued for their contributions, and given the opportunity to succeed as an important part of the team.

The Arc Allegany-Steuben congratulates Jason on this well-deserved recognition and celebrates his dedication, perseverance, and contributions. His story is a reminder of what can happen when people are given opportunities to succeed and their talents are recognized and valued.

###