

For Immediate Release

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April 4, 2016

Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Foundation Funds SPARCS Program

Norwich, CT- Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Foundation awarded \$2,000 to The Arc New London County for a facilitator, community experiences and the program materials to establish and support the Student Peer Advocates Raising Community Support (SPARCS) program.

The innovative Arc SPARCS program is unique in serving adolescents, age 16-23 with I/DD transitioning from high school into adult life. Young people will learn to harness the power of their own voice to make decisions, challenge themselves, learn from mistakes, and live their lives purposefully and productively. The program fosters young people's right to make their own choices on the journey to optimal independence.

The Arc New London County is a 64-year-old local nonprofit agency providing support to over 550 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in Southeastern Connecticut.

To participate in The Arc SPARCS program please contact Lara Chiaverini at 860.889.4435 x 103 or lchiaverini@thearcnlc.org. For general information, please contact Meghan Horan at 860.889.4435 x116 or mhoran@thearcnlc.org.

Please be aware: The Arc is not an acronym; please refer to us as The Arc, not The ARC and not ARC. The Arc is a term considered as a title or a phrase. *Thank you!*