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Press Release

April 23, 2010

Metro-North

IMMEDIATE

Westchester Arc Honors Metro-North — Where the Human Element is Elemental

MTA Metro-North Railroad has found that adults with developmental disabilities, when working at the North White Plains Shop, have proven themselves to be dedicated, hard-working individuals who take great pride in their work and have endeared themselves to the shop's staff.

For 14 years, the Communications & Signals Shop at North White Plains has relied on Westchester Arc, the oldest and largest agency in the county serving children and adults who have developmental disabilities, to provide adults who perform a variety of jobs around the shop. This experience allows them to develop interpersonal skills and experience the parameters of the workplace in terms of punctuality and responsibility.

For this reason, Metro-North was honored by Arc at their Employer Recognition Breakfast on Friday, April 23rd at the Westchester Marriott Hotel in Tarrytown.

"Westchester Arc has enjoyed a long partnership with Metro-North, said Linda Warner, Director of Career and Business Services, Westchester Arc. "The Arc individuals employed at the North White Plains Shop express how important their work is to them and how valued they feel as members of the Metro-North team."

"The experience and involvement of the Arc individuals at the North White Plains Shop has proven rewarding and enlightening for everyone in the shop and has led to more compassionate human interaction all around," said Metro-North President Howard Permut. "The railroad is fortunate and proud to have employees like Anthony Forcina, the Senior Engineer at the North White Plains Shop, who has been supervising and working with the Arc individuals for 14 years."

Forcina called the Arc individuals "our friends" and said they "have been punctual and reliable and the quality of their work has been superior."

"People visiting our vast shop have commented to us about how polished and clean everything looks. The Arc individuals get the credit for that. Everyone at the shop sees how proud the Arc people are when they are complimented for their good work—and that's made everyone at the shop treat each other with greater appreciation," Forcina added.

Arc individuals are more than valued fellow workers, said Forcina. "They've become friends. We celebrate their birthdays and have little holiday parties together. This shop is a better place thanks to them."