The Arc Northern Virginia

The Arc of Northern Virginia
3060 Williams Drive, Suite 300
Fairfax, VA 22031
703-208-1119
www.thearcofnova.org

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Media Contact: Ashley Cantatore, Director of Communications, The Arc of Northern Virginia
ashley.cantatore@thearcofnova.org | 703-208-1119 ext. 117

The Arc of Northern Virginia Honors George Mason University and Inova Fairfax Hospital with 2026 Commitment to Employment of Persons with Disabilities Awards

FAIRFAX, Va. — November 13, 2026 — The Arc of Northern Virginia today announced George Mason University's Recycling and Waste Management team and Inova Fairfax Hospital's Building and Support Services as recipients of its 2026 Commitment to Employment of Persons with Disabilities Awards. Presented in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the awards honor Northern Virginia employers demonstrating exceptional dedication to hiring and advancing employees with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

The honorees were recognized last Saturday, November 7, at The Arc's "Independence Belongs to Everyone" Gala at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner.

"Meaningful employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities is too often out of reach and is a cornerstone of independence," said Molly Whalen, Chief Executive Officer of The Arc of Northern Virginia. "These two organizations show every employer in Northern Virginia that inclusive hiring makes every workplace stronger and we are proud to honor them."

For more than 25 years, George Mason's Recycling and Waste Management team has employed neurodiverse staff whose work spans 52 campus buildings and advances the university's sustainability goals.

"These individuals are recognized and respected across campus because they represent the very best of George Mason's 'All Together Different' culture," said Kevin Brim, Manager of Recycling and Waste Management, noting team members with 15 to 25-plus years of service. "While this award is a tremendous honor, it recognizes the hard work I get to see every day. This is their award. It reflects their commitment, their contributions, and the important message that everyone has something meaningful to offer at George Mason."

At Inova Fairfax, the Building and Support Services team has made inclusive hiring a cornerstone of its workforce culture.

"We believe every person has something valuable to offer our patients, families, team members and community, and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities bring unique talents and strengths to our workforce," said Steve Narang, MD, President of Inova Fairfax Hospital. "Creating opportunities for people with disabilities to contribute and succeed makes Inova a stronger organization and a better place to work."

Through these awards, The Arc of Northern Virginia celebrates employers leading by example and encourages more area businesses to open their doors to workers with IDD, who remain significantly underemployed nationwide.

About The Arc of Northern Virginia

Founded in 1962, The Arc of Northern Virginia represents and serves more than 39,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families through direct services, education, and advocacy, promoting their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. Learn more at thearcofnova.org.