



The Arc of Northern Virginia Recognizes Two Companies for Commitment to Employment of People with Disabilities

Companies to be celebrated at The Arc of Northern Virginia's 60th Anniversary Gala Celebration

October 26 2022, Fairfax, VA – October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). Observed annually NDEAM celebrates the contributions of America's workers with disabilities past and present. The observance also showcases supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices. The Arc of Northern Virginia observes National Disability Employment Awareness Month by paying tribute to the accomplishments of the men and women with disabilities whose work helps keep the nation's economy strong and by reaffirming their commitment to ensure equal opportunity for all citizens.

As part of the observation of NDEAM, The Arc of Northern Virginia is proud to announce **Securis** and **KPMG** have been named recipients of the **Commitment to Employment of Persons with Disabilities Awards**, in recognition of those employers who go above-and-beyond in their efforts to provide meaningful work opportunities for people with disabilities.



"Work gives individuals a sense of purpose and self-worth," said Rikki Epstein, Executive Director of The Arc of Northern Virginia. "For many, it defines who we are and is a source of justifiable pride. Work helps improve individual and family finances, and it helps us connect socially. All individuals, regardless of disability, deserve the opportunity to be full members of their community where they can live, learn, work and play through all stages of life."

Securis has been setting the standard for effective Information Technology (IT) asset disposal, data destruction, and electronics recycling for almost 20 years. Securis partnered with ServiceSource in 2018 to provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities, as well as training services and real-life work experience for high school students with disabilities. Securis has provided training and work experience for several hundred students with disabilities to date, and some have become full-time employees after graduation.

- more -

"We're honored to be receiving this recognition," said Securis CEO Jeremy Farber. "The Securis employees who have disabilities are an important part of our team. They work hard and inspire us to do the same. We learn a lot from each team member and are pleased that we have an environment that helps them thrive, grow, and contribute to our mission."

KPMG LLP (KPMG) is the U.S. member firm of KPMG International, a global professional services network, and one of the Big Four accounting organizations. KPMG has been a trailblazer in building an inclusive workforce for people with disabilities and has been recognized by Disability:IN and American Association of People with Disabilities as a DEI Best Place to Work. KPMG created a unique program to help fill job openings with skilled neurodiverse individuals with autism in partnership with Melwood. Working together, KPMG and Melwood developed an innovative program that includes technical IT instruction and soft skills training.

"The unique perspectives that people with differing abilities bring to the table ultimately creates better outcomes for our firm and our communities," says KPMG LLP Partner Sean Hoffman. "At KPMG, we are committed to attracting, retaining and growing talent from underrepresented groups as part of our Accelerate 2025 strategy – that includes people with differing abilities (both apparent and non-apparent). Our clients value creative solutions to their challenges, and working to make our talent representative of people with unique perspectives enables us to do just that."

The Commitment to Employment of Persons with Disabilities Awards will be presented at The Arc of Northern Virginia's Inspire & Empower: A 60th Anniversary Gala Celebration Saturday, November 5th at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner. For more information about the Gala, including ticket availability, visit <http://thearcofnova.org/events/gala>.

Media are invited to cover the awards program, at The Arc of Northern Virginia's 60th Anniversary Gala.

Details for Media Coverage:

- **WHAT:** Commitment to Employment of Persons with Disabilities Awards – part of "Inspire & Empower" The Arc of Northern Virginia's 60th Anniversary Gala Celebration
- **WHEN:** Saturday, November 5, 2022 – reception & silent auction begins at 6:00 p.m., dinner begins at 7:15 p.m. and the program will begin at 7:30 p.m.
- **WHERE:** Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, Virginia, 22102
- **WHO:** Awards will be presented by members of The Arc of Northern Virginia Board of Directors. Representatives from Securis and KPMG will be on hand to accept their awards.

MEDIA RSVP REQUIRED: A media escort is required for the event. Please provide the full name and media outlet to larry.rockwell@thearcofnova.org **no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday, November 4**. For questions, call Larry Rockwell at 703-208-1119 ext. 114.

About The Arc of Northern Virginia

The Arc of Northern Virginia was founded in 1962 and today represents and serves over 34,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD)--such as autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and rare chromosomal disorders--and their families in the cities and counties of Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church. The Arc of Northern Virginia is an organization that builds community opportunities for citizens with disabilities so that they can live "A Life Like Yours."