



The Arc

Pennsylvania

A Year in Review

2023-2024

Who We Are

The Arc of Pennsylvania promotes the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.





Tracy Gross-Fritz- T...



Sarah Taglang



Anthony Chan, The ...



Sherri Landis



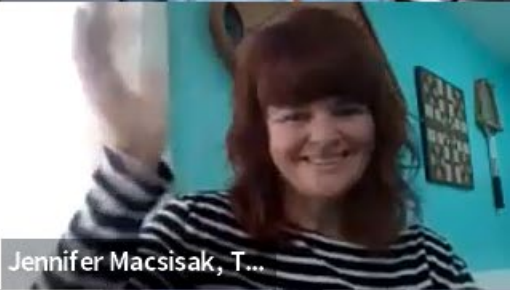
Emma Nolan



Nicole Turman



Kristen



Jennifer Macsisak, T...



S. F. Woskabond



Nicole Meier Emery - ...



Eleni Burd



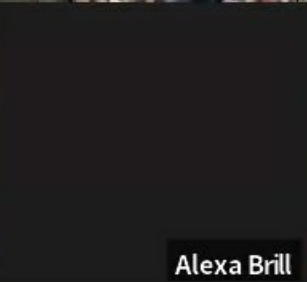
Mikeisha Mobley, Th...



Nick Webster, The A...



Tierra Brown



Alexa Brill





The Arc of Pennsylvania Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities among People with Disabilities

- Published Recommended Solutions Report (Plain Language in Digital, Spanish, Chinese, & English)
- Selected to be a Novel and Emerging Practicing Study by the CDC
- National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) Strengthening the Public Health System Award Winner

Initiative to Address COVID19 Health Disparities among People with Disabilities Project Summary

Project Structure & Participants

Statewide Task Force



- 31 members representing 23 organizations
- 65% were new partners and 55% existing partners

Organization Scan:

- 78% serve people with disabilities
- 30% serve healthcare workers & professionals
- 17% serve rural residents
- 17% serve racial/ethnic minorities
- 14 organizations served all of Pennsylvania without a more specific geographic focus
- 1 organization provided services nationwide with no regional focus

Listening Session Participants

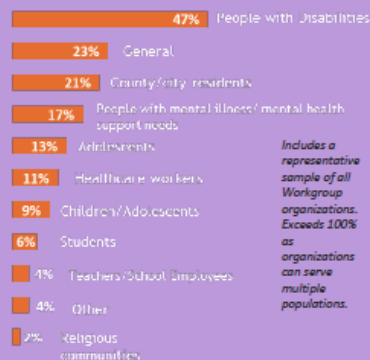


- The Arc of PA spoke to 393 people across 33 counties in PA to identify barriers to care and potential solutions.
- Participants included individuals with disabilities, their caregivers, healthcare providers, and advocacy organizations serving the disability community.

Regional Community Workgroups



- 13 workgroups with 224 members across 155 entities
- 74% were new partners and 26% were existing partners



This project is funded, in part, under a Grant with the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Basic data for use in this study were supplied by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The department takes no part in and is in no way responsible for any analyses, interpretations or conclusions.

Media Campaign

- Static and radio ads in English and Spanish were created to promote vaccination and testing resources for the disability community, featuring individuals with disabilities
- Campaign received 30,516 clicks for more information
- 30% came from people in rural PA counties



COVID-19 visual campaign materials used on social media and elsewhere



Ads were seen or heard 20,667,065 times (digital impressions)

- 29% of impressions were in rural counties
- 16% of impressions were Spanish Audio ads

Project Products



We collected information by asking people questions online and in focus groups called listening tours. From these conversations, 10 Recommended Core Solutions were identified, specific to the PA Department of Health.

Recommendations for Addressing COVID-19 Health Disparities Among the Disability Community

1. Involve people with disabilities, their families, and caregivers in policy making and healthcare decisions.
2. Reauthorize the Governor's Cabinet and Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities.
3. Keep helpful policy changes from the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Expand community services and...
5. Include disability equity advisors.
6. Provide disability professionals...
7. Designate paid professionals...
8. Collect data on people with disabilities.
9. Provide information easy-to-understand...



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING COVID-19 HEALTH DISPARITIES AMONG THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY

<https://thearcpa.org/healthcare-initiatives/>

This dissemination product was supported by funds made available from the CDC's National Center for STLT Public Health Infrastructure and Workforce through cooperative agreement OT19-1802, Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services Through National Partnerships to Improve and Protect the Nation's Health award #U59OT000303-04-02. The conclusions, findings, and opinions expressed by authors contributing to this report do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the authors' affiliated institutions.

- The Barriers Report outlined the biggest issues the disability community faced during the pandemic, such as barriers to accessible information, reduced access to testing, vaccinations, and necessary accommodations.
- The Solutions Report highlighted recommendations to the Pennsylvania Department of Health to address these barriers.
- Reports were available in technical language, plain language, Braille, English, Spanish, Mandarin, and an on-line interactive format.
- Other materials include fact sheets, e-learning module, video library, postcards, social media toolbox, and reference library



2024 | NNPHI ANNUAL CONFERENCE
BUILDING
PATHWAYS TO
IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH



NEW ORLEANS, LA | MAY 21 – 23, 2024

2024 NNPHI Strengthening the Public Health System Award

<https://youtu.be/Kdg3NvTjNhA>

Disability Health Action Network (DHAN)

- DHAN is a statewide collaborative committed to advancing the health and well-being of individuals with disabilities in Pennsylvania by:
 - Promoting equitable access to quality healthcare,
 - Fostering effective communication between stakeholders, and
 - Enhancing the overall health outcomes for people with disabilities.





75 years of
Advocacy

Covering 50
Counties in PA

Advocacy in 2023-2024



Budget Advocacy



Living Wage for
Direct Support
Professionals (DSP)



Early Intervention
– Rate Increases

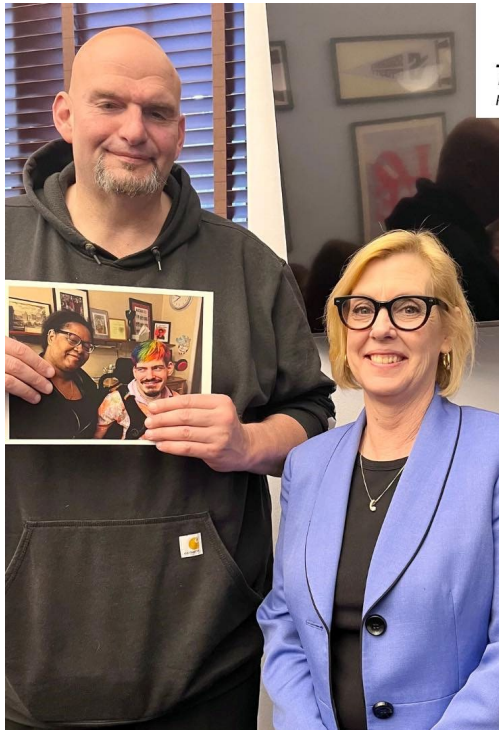


Increasing Special
Education Funding



Addressing the
Waiting List

Advocacy in 2023-2024 continued



Inclusive Education
for All

Employment 1st

Funding for Home
and Community
Based Services

Applying the
Special Education
Funding Formula

Fetal Alcohol
Spectrum Disorder
Task Force

State Task Force on
the Right to
Education

PA Schools Work
Campaign


PA Health Equity
Advisory
Committee

Key Advocacy Issue in 2023-2024


Throughout the year, The Arc of PA has participated in press conferences and virtual advocacy meetings highlighting the importance of raising the wage for Direct Support Professionals



- Ongoing Budget Meetings with Senate and House Members






INVEST IN STUDENTS. SECURE OUR FUTURE



Join PA SCHOOLS WORK
for a Lunch & Learn Webinar

Understanding How
Governor Shapiro's K-12
Public Education Budget
Proposal Impacts Your District

W E D N E S D A Y
March 27th at Noon

 PASchoolsWork.com  Facebook.com/PASchoolsWork  Twitter.com/PASchoolsWork

Increasing Special Education Funding – Key Advocacy Issue in 2023-2024

Collaboration with Pennsylvania Schools Work

The Arc of Pennsylvania's TAPestry

May 2024



TAPestry

MONTHLY ELECTRONIC
NEWSLETTER THAT GOES
OUT TO ROUGHLY 1,600
DIGITAL SUBSCRIBERS

WE COMBINED PA MESSAGE
AND INTOUCH TO CREATE A
NEW NEWSLETTER!

Action Alerts

Circulated Calls to Action on:

- Call to Action for supporting Governor Shapiro's proposed budget



The Arc Informs



Facebook: 6568 Followers (8%)

X: 1347 Followers (4%)

Instagram: 1166 Followers (10%)

IM Facebook: 1109 Followers

IM Instagram: 463 Followers

IM X: 177 Followers

IM TikTok: 72 Followers (36%)

Why TikTok?

Using TikTok increases our organization's visibility, and helps us raise awareness on our mission and topics that relate to the work we do.

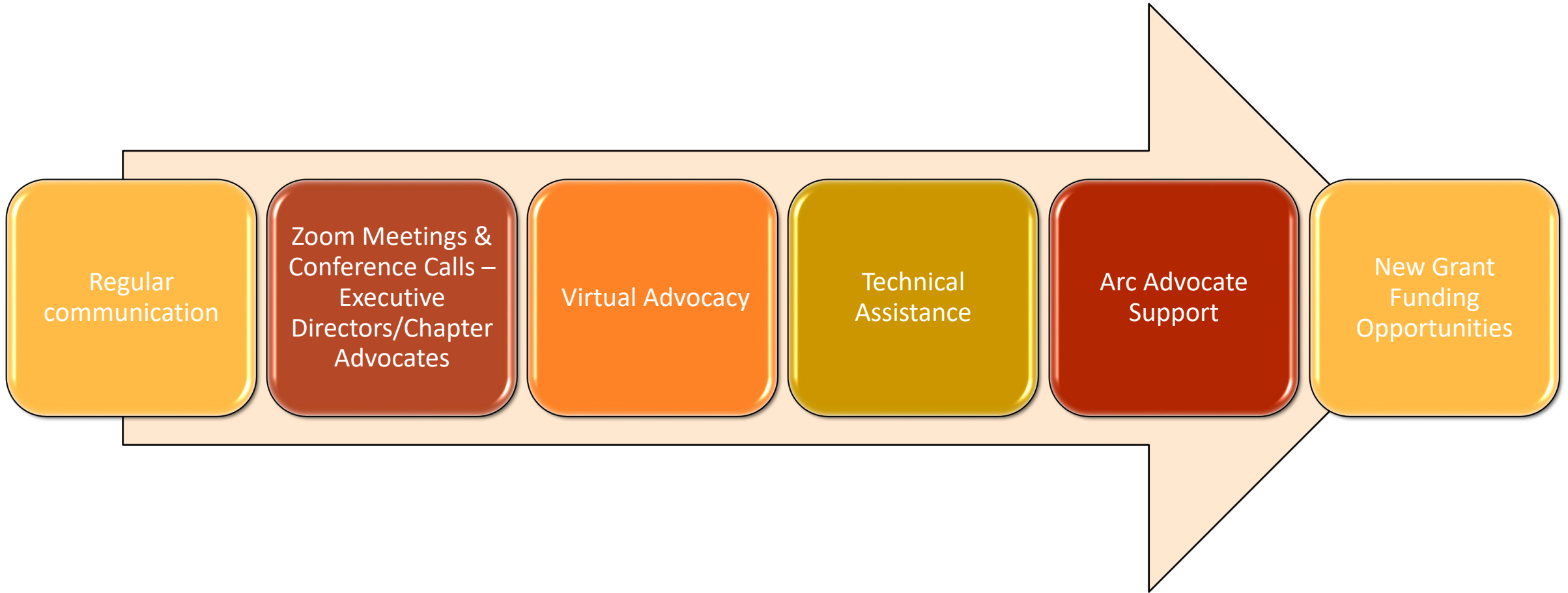
Short Video format not only broadens our reach but allows us to support more dynamically with our audience. By sharing videos that demonstrate the ideas and resources we provide to teachers, we can offer clear, visual explanations and practical examples.

This approach makes it easier for educators to understand and implement our suggestions, enhancing their teaching experience and further solidifying our organization's value.

TikTok Stats

- ❑ Highest View Count – 12,613 views
- ❑ Highest Like Count – 300 likes
- ❑ Highest Bookmark (saves) Count – 48 bookmarks
- ❑ Highest Share Count – 30 shares

Support to Local Chapters



Programs
that Make
a
Difference

Include Me School Age

ADEPT

ACRE Training

What is Include Me?
The mission of The Arc of PA's Include Me Program is to develop, support, and enhance disability inclusive practices across Pennsylvania. Include Me Program Specialists partner with school districts to create a comprehensive plan that meets the unique needs of the district, teachers, and families.

- Student Team Consultation**
We visit classrooms and offer resources, strategies, onsite mentoring and other supports as identified by the student's IEP team.
- School-Wide General Support**
We provide general consulting to increase accessibility for school- or district-wide events, activities, and more.
- Staff and Family Training**
We deliver professional development opportunities for school personnel and families on a wide range of topics.
- Virtual Student Programs**
We facilitate a variety of virtual student-facing programs in the afternoon and evening through engaging, age-appropriate activities for students across the state.
- On-Site Technical Assistance**
We assist in the implementation of a variety of assistive technology solutions for students, including device training and lending.
- Inclusive District Projects**
We collaborate with school districts to create building projects such as sensory rooms, playground communication boards, and more.

Funding for the Include Me Program comes from PA Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education. Include Me support is provided at no cost to schools and school districts.

807 Morris Dr. Lansdale, PA | 717.234.3321 | thearc.org | include@thearc.org

June 25-27, 2024

SAVE THE DATE

INCLUDI-CON

*Registration will open in April 2024 on our website, thearcpa.org

Include Me School Age – Build Inclusion Capacity

- Served 23 School Districts
- Reached 3873 through Professional Development
- Reached 12,525 through Outreach and Informational Activities
- Attended 35 Local Task Forces with 627 Individuals reached
- Includi-Con registration is 67

INCLUSION PROJECTS

Choosing to do an inclusion project looks different for every district. There are many more items that don't fall within these three categories (like storybook trails, accessible lunch tables, water wheelchairs and more). Just talk to your Include Me Program Specialist about what works for your district. Below are just a few examples of some of the items we have provided to school districts.

- SENSORY**
 - FLEXIBLE SEATING
 - SENSORY SWINGS
 - BUBBLE TUBES
 - FIDGETS
- COMMUNICATION**
 - PLAYGROUND & PORTABLE COMMUNICATION BOARDS
 - TABLETS
 - COMMUNICATION FLASHCARDS
- INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY**
 - ADAPTED ART SUPPLIES
 - ACCESSIBLE MUSIC EQUIPMENT
 - PHYS ED SUPPLIES
 - INCLUSIVE LITERATURE LIBRARY CARTS

TOOLKIT FOR INCLUSION: SPECIALS & ELECTIVES

About This Toolkit:
Include Me PA works in partnership with districts across PA to build capacity for inclusive education. Specials teachers/Specialists play a vital role in reinforcing school culture. Arts classes and Specials are sometimes seen as a 'place to start' for inclusion in a general education setting, and perhaps that's because movement, creativity, flexibility and tactile learning are built in to the fabric of these classrooms and curricula! At Include Me, we believe in meaningful inclusion from the first bell—our program specialists offer resources to build inclusive capacity in all general education classes. **This toolkit** is designed to be a quick reference to increase the inclusive capacity of Art, Music, Phys Ed, Library and Technology/Computer classrooms.

For More Resources:
Include Me offers supports including professional development (virtual, in person, and through eLearning modules) for teachers, paraprofessionals and staff throughout our partnering districts. Contact your Include Me program specialist for a list of available PDs this school year.

- thearcpa.org
- Office 717-254-2621
- <https://www.facebook.com/IncludeMePA/>





Earn a Basic ACRE Certificate

Below is our schedule for upcoming virtual training for those providing Supported Employment; Community Participation; or transition services for high school students.

- August 17-19**
- September 12-14**
- October 12-14**
- November 14-16**
- December 12-14**

LEARN MORE:

thearcpa.org/training/

NEW

Customized Employment Certification Course

- Get certification in:
 - Discovery
 - Customized Job Development
 - Systematic Instruction
 - All in one course!
- New price!
 - \$650 vs \$3600

Register Now
thearcpa.org/training/



TRAINING CALENDAR

The Arc of PA offers online certification courses in ACRE, Customized Employment, and Intentional Teaching.

To learn more and to register please go to:
thearcpa.org/training

ACRE Trainings: Become certified in providing high quality Supported Employment and Community Participation Support services.

- May 13-15, 2024
- June 10-12, 2024
- July 24-26, 2024
- August 14-16, 2024

Customized Employment: Learn how to create and support fully customized jobs. Certification qualifies for Customized Employment / Advanced Supported Employment.

- Get certification in Discovery, Customized Job Development and Systematic Instruction in one course.
- Attend 7 days of online classes spread out over 4 sessions.
- Practice your skills with a learning partner while under the guidance of a mentor.
- Next class starts July 11-12! For more details visit us online or Contact Anthony Chan at achan@includemepa.org for more details.

Costs:
 ACRE Training - \$450
 Customized Employment - \$200 to audit, \$650 for certification

Questions?
 Email Anthony Chan achan@includemepa.org or call 717-234-2621x110

ADEPT – Programs that Make a Difference

Our ADEPT (Arc Discovery Employment Transition) Program provides customized employment training for providers in Discovery, Job Development, and Systematic Instruction. The Arc also provides this service to individuals through OVR (Office of Vocational Rehab) and BSE (Bureau of Special Education) funding. Customized Employment matches the individual's skills, interests, and talents with the needs of a business.

- 341 Individuals ACRE Certified
- 12 Individuals attending CE training or completing certification (4 completed)
- Public Outreach Activities reached 689 individuals
- Job Support
 - 8 Funded through Bureau of Special Education
 - 1 Funded through Office of Vocational Rehabilitation



2023-2024
18 Books
4 Age Groups

- **210 participants statewide**
Summer 2023- Spring 2024
- **4 inclusive in-person book studies**
- **12 virtual book studies**
- **4 Author Q&A's**



From top left: author Meg Eden Kuyatt visits the 8-12 year old DATL group, facilitated by Marykate and Kristen Spring 2024

Story Tour, kids 5-8 silly faces, Theme "Real People" (Winter Story Tour 2024)

Story Tour, emoji sticks in action





SEPT TIME TRAVEL



OCT MAGIC + WIZARDRY



NOV MOUNTAINEERING



DEC HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS



JAN UNDER THE SEA



FEB WILD WILD WEST



MAR GOING TINY



APRIL ON THE SAFARI



MAY UP IN THE AIR

ADVENTURE SERIES

2023



2024

Club Members in Action!





Camp IMCC Returns! Year 2

June 25th- August 6th

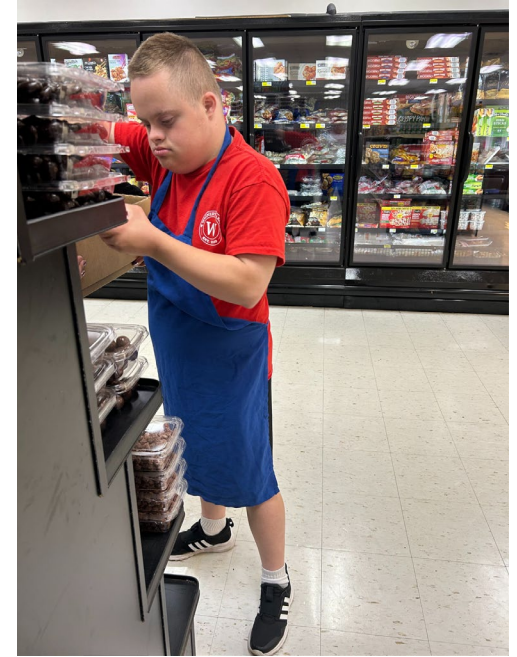


Upcoming Projects

- Breakdown of accommodations vs modifications
- This or That trend
- Day in the Life of an Include Me Specialist
- Sensory Tools
- Presuming Competence Explanation
- Less intrusive prompting
- BookTok (Showing some DATL books)
- Disability History Month

ADEPT

Programs that Make a Difference!



**Three words to describe
my experience attending
SAID-IT student
presentations
(audience post-survey):**

“Inclusive, welcoming, futuristic”

“Amazing young people”

“I. Loved. It.”

“Wonderful, informative,
energizing”

“enjoyment, humor, fun”

“Insightful, impactful, amazing”

“Fun Eye-opening Joyful”

“Amazing, informative, uplifting”

“Insightful, inspiring and funny”

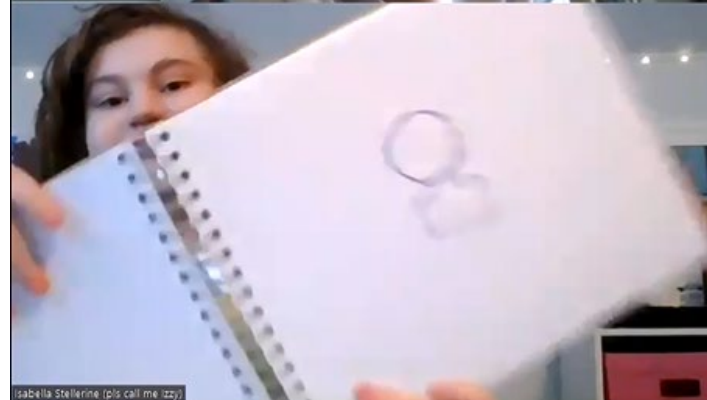


Photo:
SAID-IT
students

Bottom
left, Izzy
Stellerine

Bottom
right,
Sarah
Keegan

The Arc of PA's SAID-IT Program (DD Council grant)

Student presentation virtual attendees included: **Parents, students, community members, school staff and direct support professionals.**

100% of attendees/survey respondents agreed that they “would like to see more opportunities like this one for students with disabilities.”

More feedback:

“I appreciate your giving the presenters center stage. I also appreciated how different the two presenters were, and how much say they clearly had in the type of presentation. Thank you.”

The Arc of Pennsylvania Partners

Bureau of Early
Intervention
Services

Childcare
Information
Services

Early Intervention
Technical
Assistance

Intermediate
Units and Local
School Districts

State and Local
Intermediate
Units

Department of
Human Services

PA Choice

PA Schools Work

Disability
Coalitions

Disability
Transportation
Alliance

The Arc of United
States

Local Arc
Chapters

PA DD Council

PA Department of
Health

PA Department of
Education

Office of
Vocational
Rehabilitation

Disability Rights
of PA

Provider
Organizations

Thank You to The Arc of Pennsylvania's

Board of Directors

Chapter Executives and Presidents

State Chapter Staff

Countless Volunteers



**DIAMONDS ARE
FOREVER.
SO IS OUR IMPACT.**



**Join us as we commemorate our
75th anniversary and look to the
bright future ahead.**

SAVE THE DATE!



November 16, 2024

**WEST SHORE COUNTRY CLUB
CAMP HILL, PA**

Join us as we commemorate our 75th anniversary and look to the bright future ahead!



The ArcTM
Pennsylvania

For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities

Achieve with us.

www.thearcpa.org



Thank you!

