



## PRESS RELEASE

245 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13501

**Contact:** Pamela DeImedico, PR Coordinator  
315.272.1532  
www.thearc.org

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**RE:** Yakey Named Employee of the Year

## Laura Yakey Named Arc Employee of the Year

**Laura Yakey**, Community Coordinator for The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter NYSARC's MVCC CollegeWorks program, has been named The Arc's **Employee-of-the-Year for 2009**. The award was presented at the Agency's employee recognition dinner held November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Radisson Hotel Utica-Centre. Ms. Yakey is a strong supporter of The Arc's mission of community inclusion and works hard to assist CollegeWorks students develop meaningful, professional relationships through internships at area businesses. She has enhanced their college experience by forming a Job Club for the CollegeWorks Alumni Group, which she plans special events for. "Laura has always demonstrated the willingness to go above and beyond to help the CollegeWorks program become a success," says Joanne Donaruma, Head of Employment Services. "She is a real asset to the program." Maggie Hansen, Director of CollegeWorks, and Ms. Yakey's supervisor, adds that "Laura does an excellent job coordinating tours of businesses and arranging internships with area employers for our students. The program is lucky to have her." Ms. Yakey, who resides in Utica, has been with The Arc for 8 years.

**The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter NYSARC is a non-profit human service agency which provides advocacy and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oneida and Lewis counties.**