

1. Give us a bit of background about how your previous roles with The Arc of NJ led you to this new role as Director of the NJSAP.

I started with The Arc of NJ in 2009, January marks 14 years with this wonderful non-profit! I started with Project Hire as an Employment Training Specialist for Morris County. That gave me a lot of experience with competitive employment for people with IDD. In 2012 I moved over to The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project. I began as the Information and Referral Coordinator. Then I moved up to Assistant Director. This gave me the knowledge and confidence to proudly take over the role of Director. Each role has taught me many things and I take what I have learned and use it to further the mission of the program. I am delighted to continue to work for such an amazing Program and serve such wonderful people!

2. What is your vision for the Self-Advocacy Project in the days and weeks ahead? What do you want to conquer first?

My plan for NJSAP is to place self-advocates front and center. I would love to connect people with IDD to committees, panels, trainings, outreach, and other events; to help self-advocates share their lived experiences and knowledge with anyone, and everyone, who will listen. I want to create a space where current self-advocates can mentor the new generation of self-advocates. I'd like to work on more collaborations with other programs as well! One of the first things I would like to do is spread the services that NJSAP offers across the state and help more people get involved in all of the wonderful events that NJSAP hosts.

3. What do you want Self-Advocates in New Jersey to know about you and the offerings of the Project?

NJSAP offers a lot of free virtual programming every day of the week! We also offer trainings to groups and classrooms. We host monthly Council meetings and we would love to work on gaining new members for all of our programming. Our social media is packed with awesome information and resources, as well as tips and tricks to live a healthier and happier life! We are always trying to create a program that keeps up with the needs of the participants with new and exciting offerings! Be sure to visit our website for all of this information!