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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Arc of Anchorage CEO Receives National Recognition with Rising Star Award

ANCHORAGE, AK, October 5, 2015 - The National Conference of Executives of The Arc of the United States (NCE) Annual Awards Committee chose Dr. Mary Van Haneghan to receive the 2015 "Rising Star Award." Dr. Van Haneghan was recognized on October 3 at The Arc's National Convention in Indianapolis for her accomplishments and contributions through her work on behalf of people who experience intellectual disabilities and their families.

The Rising Star Award acknowledges chapter leaders of The Arc that support the national organization's core values: people first, equity, community, self-determination, and diversity.

"Your continued reflection of The Arc's core values is a shining example of what a chapter leader can and should be..." The NCE wrote in Dr. Van Haneghan's award letter. "We are fortunate to have your leadership here at The Arc of Anchorage."

Dr. Van Haneghan serves as the chief executive officer of The Arc of Anchorage, the only chapter of The Arc in Alaska. She received her Doctorate, in education, with emphasis in higher education and adult learning, from Walden University in 2012; a master of science degree, with emphasis in adult education and literacy, from Buffalo State College in 2007; and in 2006 she received a bachelor of art degree, with emphasis in business management, from the University of Buffalo. Dr. Van Haneghan previously served as a director at People, Inc. and has extensive experience as both an educator and researcher, with publications that focus on educational opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Founded in 1957, The Arc of Anchorage serves Alaskans who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc strives to help these Alaskans achieve lives of fulfillment and independence as valued members of our community offering a full array of services. For information please call 907-277-6677 or visit www.thearcofanchorage.org.

Editor's Note: The Arc is not an acronym; always refer to us as The Arc, not The ARC and never ARC. The Arc should be considered as a title or a phrase.

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