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THE ARC OF NCV AWARENESS VIDEO PROMOTES INCLUSION

March 2019, WARRENTON, VA - The Arc of North Central Virginia (NCV) proudly announces the release of a new disability awareness video entitled "We Are More Alike Than Different". The video was produced by Fauquier High School senior Madeleine Hayes during a student internship with The Arc of NCV. The video can be viewed online: <https://www.arcofncv.org/media>

The 4-minute video features 5 local young adults with disabilities sharing about their high school experience, and highlights 5 focal points to consider when interacting with people with disabilities. While the video was developed with a primary goal of building awareness in high school, it has an appeal and message for people of all ages.

Madeleine hopes the video will "...show people that although we all have different strengths, abilities and gifts, we all share the same interests. I want to promote an inclusive school environment where everyone is included and people with disabilities are supported." Schools are currently finding ways to use the video to increase awareness and promote acceptance, and The Arc looks forward to continuing to finding opportunities to share the video as a means of promoting acceptance and inclusion of people with disabilities.

Nick, a student featured in the film, feels "Ms. Hayes has created a masterpiece of human compassion and wisdom. Her visionary mind and humble spirit have been able to weave together our stories and so create a tapestry of hope."

The Arc of NCV is a local non-profit serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families in Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock counties. Services include direct consultations with families, hosting informational and social events, and collaborating with local public and private organizations to build awareness and understanding of supports for people with I/DD. Founded in 2010, The Arc of NCV is one of 23 local chapters of The Arc of Virginia, and is an affiliate of The Arc of the United States, the world's largest community-based organization of, and for, people with I/DD and their families.

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