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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **National Speaker to Discuss Three-Step Plan for Successful Employment**

“Taking Control Over YOUR Employment Future” is a free training being held on Thursday January 18, 2018 from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. It will be at the Ordean Building, Conference Room B/C, 424 W. Superior St., in Duluth. The speaker will be Bob Niemiec, a national leader and speaker on supporting people with disabilities to find competitive employment in the workforce that matches their interests and skills.

Niemiec will discuss three steps that he says are needed to create a successful plan for employment:

- 1) Take an inventory of your personal preferences, experiences, living situation, and key people in your life.
- 2) Use this information you gather about yourself to determine what kinds of vocations and work situations you would be interested in.
- 3) Develop a list of places to go visit that match the vocations and work situations you identify in step 2.

“This training will help put job seekers in charge of their employment search,” said Melinda Shamp, Lead Community Resource Connector for The Arc Minnesota, one of the workshop sponsors. “It will help attendees craft a workable plan so they can have success finding a competitive job.”

“We invite all job seekers, their families, and their supporters to attend,” said Diane Mikolich, Director of The Arc Minnesota’s regional office in northeast Minnesota. “The methods we will

discuss will apply to job seekers with and without disabilities and to a variety of employment situations. It is an excellent opportunity to map one's employment future.”

Members of A Working Life Alliance (AWLA) are sponsors of this event. AWLA is a statewide collaboration of 18 partner agencies. It gives job seekers and family supporters up-to-date information and helps them connect to people and resources so they can find and keep the job they want. The Arc Minnesota is a partner agency in the AWLA, which also includes the following organizations: MN APSE; Autism Society of Minnesota; Dakota County Social Services, Minnesota Employment First Coalition; Rise, Inc.; Minnesota Disability Law Center; Social Security Administration; Minnesota DEED/Vocational Rehabilitation Services; Minnesota Olmstead Implementation Office; and Minnesota Department of Human Services. AWLA is funded by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

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