



**May 31, 2018**

**For Immediate Release**

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) and the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) are pleased to announce that the Community Connections Career Partnership – Ohio Program, also referred to as C3P(O), has been selected as a winner of the 2017-18 Moving Mountains Best Practice Award.

OPRA is a statewide association of more than 160 organizations that provide services to more than 15,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities. OADSP is a state chapter of the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals. Their mission is to provide high quality training to elevate the professionalism of the direct support workforce.

In 2015, OPRA and OADSP partnered to expose high school juniors and seniors to the field of direct support through the C3P(O) Program. C3P(O) combines classroom education utilizing OADSP's credentialing program and a year-long internship with local providers of services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Recognized by the Ohio Department of Education, C3P(O) can be used as an alternative pathway to a high school diploma for students who have struggled to meet one of the existing graduation pathways.

The Moving Mountains Best Practice Award is awarded annually through the partnership of the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP), the Research and Training Center (RTC) at the University of Minnesota's Institute on Community Integration, and the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR). The purpose of the award is to recognize organizations using leading practices in direct support workforce development that result in improved outcomes for people with disabilities.

In announcing the award for the C3P(O) Program, Mark Olsen, Project Coordinator at RTC and Joseph MacBeth, Executive Director of NADSP said, "We received numerous nominations this year and are excited about the workforce development efforts that are happening across the country. This thoughtfully planned and implemented system change effort is truly impressive."

Mark Davis, President of OPRA, and Bethany Toledo, Executive Director of OADSP, wish to acknowledge all of the Program partners who have made C3P(O) successful over the past three years: South-Western City School District in Franklin County; Rushmore Academy in Marion County; Medina City School District in Medina County; and Clermont Northeastern School District in Clermont County; Columbus Center for Human Services; ViaQuest; Boundless; Goodwill Columbus; Heinzerling

Foundation; Resident Home Association of Marion (RHAM); SHC/The Arc of Medina County; Self-Directed Living; Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities; and Residential Concepts.

To date, 63 students in the C3P(O) Program have earned the Certificate of Initial Proficiency and 23 students have earned the Certificate of Advanced Proficiency through OADSP's credentialing program. Many have accepted employment with service providers upon graduation from high school.

OPRA and OADSP will be recognized for this innovative program at this year's Reinventing Quality Conference in Baltimore, MD on July 31, 2018.

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