

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York State PROMISE presents first semi-annual award recognizing partners

ITHACA, NY (July 1, 2014) - The New York State PROMISE is excited to announce the recipients of the first semi-annual NYS PROMISE award.

John Allen, Special Assistant to the Commissioner of New York State Office of Mental Health, and Kevin Smith, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services, Vocational Rehabilitation in the New York State Education Department are the first recipients to be honored for their outstanding efforts as NYS PROMISE partners and their “exemplary work to advance opportunities for New Yorkers with disabilities.”

Award recipients were honored at the first NYS PROMISE Learning Community conference on May 19, 2014 at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY. Over 86 individuals attended, representing over 48 agencies from across New York State.

The NYS PROMISE (Promoting the Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income) is a five-year initiative designed to support schools and communities in providing high quality transition services for youth and their families, while recognizing that the needs of each community and student are unique. Six states or state consortia including New York will be funded to develop and implement programming focused on improving transition-to-adulthood outcomes for youth who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

“John Allen and Kevin Smith played a pivotal role in initiating the grant application,” states Thomas P. Golden, NYS PROMISE co-principal investigator at Cornell University. “Their leadership has been vital to achieving our grant award, in organizing our initial efforts, and ensuring our success for the future.”

According to Andrew Karhan, NYS PROMISE project director with the New York State Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, “Kevin and John are each well respected in their own right for the leadership they have displayed in making NYS PROMISE a reality, but also through their tireless work to improve employment opportunities and outcomes for New Yorkers.”

The NYS PROMISE intervention model was jointly developed by the U.S. departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Labor, and the U.S. social Security Administration in an effort to improve the service provision and coordination for youth with disabilities who receive SSI and their families.

One award will be presented to an outstanding leader in the PROMISE initiative at the next Learning Community conference, December 1 and 2 at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY. Over one hundred statewide grant partners are expected to be in attendance.

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Contact

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