

PRESS RELEASE

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ABILITIES FIRST LEANN COYLE PROMOTED NAMED VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (June 14, 2019) – Abilities First, a Hudson Valley-based nonprofit providing services to over 1,400 individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, announces Leann Coyle has been promoted to the newly established title of Vice President of Educational Services. Coyle will be responsible for day-to-day operational oversight of all Abilities First educational programs including early education, Universal Pre-K, Special Education Preschool and the Abilities First school-age programs in LaGrange, Hyde Park, Red Hook and New Windsor, totaling an enrollment of over 300 students. She was previously the Director of Preschools and Universal Pre-K. Coyle joined Abilities First in 1998 as Head Teacher at a former preschool site located in Beacon. For over 25 years, Coyle has been dedicated to providing quality educational experiences for preschool children with special needs and fostering life-long learning.

Coyle, a resident of Dutchess County, received her undergraduate degree from SUNY Oneonta and her Master of Science in Special and General Education from Mount Saint Mary College. Following her time as a preschool special education teacher, Coyle went on to obtain her School District Administration Degree from SUNY New Paltz in 2005.

"As our education programs continue to grow and become more specialized, we see the need for a leadership position dedicated to creating continuity and maintaining quality across our programs and sites. We are so pleased to have a highly knowledgeable and experienced leader in Leann to fill this critical role as we move into the future," said Chief Executive Officer Jeffery Fox, Ph.D."

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About Abilities First

Founded in 1962, Abilities First is a nonprofit organization serving the needs of those with developmental disabilities from pre-school through adulthood. With more than 650 dedicated employees committed to providing educational, vocational, residential, habilitation and family support services, Abilities First gives individuals with disabilities and their families the support to attain independence, self-determination, integration and acceptance by others. In serving over 1,400 children and adults throughout the Hudson Valley region of New York State, Abilities First holds a long-term commitment to creating a cohesive culture of compassion, empowerment and respect for these individuals through education, exploration and experience. Abilities First is accredited for person-centered care by the Council on Quality and Leadership.

For more information, visit <u>www.AbilitiesFirstNY.org</u> or on Facebook at <u>www.Facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc</u>.