

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Sheba Simms

Phone: 610.296.6725 x116

REP. MELISSA SHUSTERMAN VISITS VFES AND DISCUSSES SPECIAL EDUCATION ISSUES

MALVERN, Penn.,— October 15, 2019 – State House Representative Melissa Shusterman, D Chester/Montgomery (157 District), met with members of the Leadership Team at Valley Forge Educational Services (VFES) on Tuesday, October 15, 2019. During the visit, VFES leaders discussed the organization’s mission and 60-year history serving children and adults with special needs through its signature program, The Vanguard School. Dr. Grace Fornicola, Executive Director, also shared information about the adult employment services offered through VFES’s newest program, Customized Workforce Solutions. In turn, Rep. Shusterman noted her role as the Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Caucus co-chair and her deeply-rooted commitment to the special needs community. She also expressed her commitment to fostering a collaborative relationship with VFES.

After the discussion, Rep. Shusterman participated in a tour of the VFES campus. During the tour, Rep. Shusterman engaged with students and teachers, while Lisa Wood, Director of Education, shared how The Vanguard School educates students in specialized classrooms. Rep. Shusterman offered her office’s support in identifying resources and contacts to support the VFES community. “You should know that we are doers,” stated Rep. Shusterman. Rep. Shusterman closed the visit by agreeing to return to VFES to continue the conversation about issues concerning special education and employment for people with disabilities.

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About Valley Forge Educational Services

Valley Forge Educational Services (VFES) offers a continuum of educational, summer and employment-related programs for people with disabilities. The hallmark of our programs is our collaborative and holistic approach to each child, adolescent and adult, recognizing his or her unique abilities and needs through team efforts. Individuals of all ages come to learn, share, appreciate and respect one another while developing skills necessary for success. We are committed to helping students and participants develop a strong sense of self-worth to realize their value as contributing members of their communities. vfes.net