

Assembly Resolution No. 1244

**BY:** M. of A. Conrad

**COMMENDING** Douglas DiGesare upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2026 Leadership Award and the Years of Service Award by the New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation

**WHEREAS,** Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

**WHEREAS,** Douglas DiGesare has given not only his time and energies but also his competence, intelligence, and leadership, and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Douglas DiGesare upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2026 Leadership Award and the Years of Service Award by the New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation; and

**WHEREAS,** Both the 2026 Leadership Award and Years of Service Award are granted by the New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation as part of their Annual Excellence Awards; and

**WHEREAS,** The Leadership Award is a prestigious honor granted to an individual who has made significant, lasting contributions to the disability and human services sector through leadership that emphasizes integrity, effectiveness, and collaboration; and

**WHEREAS,** Douglas DiGesare is an experienced leader and has been serving The Arc Erie County, New York for 35 years; in 2018, he stepped into the role of chief executive officer and has been leading the organization since; and

**WHEREAS,** His sustained tenure at The Arc Erie County has earned Douglas DiGesare the Years of Service award, which is reserved for individuals who contributed to long-term growth and innovation through visionary leadership in their organization; and

**WHEREAS,** For over three decades, Douglas DiGesare has gone through the ranks at The Arc Erie County, starting as a residential manager, then moving onto roles such as director of residential services, director of quality improvement and training, and chief operating officer; and

**WHEREAS,** Douglas DiGesare earned his Master of Arts in Business and Policy Studies from SUNY Empire State College, and he earned his Bachelor of Science from SUNY Brockport; and

**WHEREAS,** As a well-known and respected individual in his field, Douglas DiGesare is widely recognized for his dedication to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and he was recently

included on a list of influential local leaders by **Buffalo Business First**; and

**WHEREAS**, Douglas DiGesare's career spanned many impactful projects and achievements; amongst his current projects is the Black Water Acres initiative, which is an upcoming inclusive farm in Alden, New York, that is designed to provide vocational training and community programs for individuals supported by The Arc Erie County; and

**WHEREAS**, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Douglas DiGesare has displayed throughout his life; and

**WHEREAS**, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Douglas DiGesare upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2026 Leadership Award and the Years of Service Award by the New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Douglas DiGesare.