FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Valley Educational Associates Partners with Springfield College**

**to Create an Internship Program**

HATFIELD, MA (October 5, 2018) Valley Educational Associates, Inc. has partnered with Springfield College to offer human services students an internship program working directly with program participants. Graduating students struggle with finding work upon graduation and for many an internship can turn into a full-time career. Valley Educational Associates seeks to create opportunities for Springfield College human services graduating student interns.

Students are able to meet Springfield College’s required service hours while getting first-hand experience working with the participants of Valley Educational Associates. Kourtney Roy is a second year graduate student in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at Springfield College. Her undergraduate degree focused on Health & Human Sciences, as well as, Psychology. Roy states, “I chose Valley Educational Associates for my internship due to the adult population and to grasp a better understanding of the challenges those with cognitive disabilities face. With previous experience working with TBI clients, I look forward to enhancing my skills and to make a meaningful and positive impact within the VEA community.”

Executive Director, Kate DaSilva, of Valley Educational Associates states, “We are very excited about our new relationship with Springfield College and Holyoke Community College. The students will bring wonderful inspiration, skills, and job to the participants of our three program locations in Western Massachusetts.”

Hello! My name is Kourtney and I am currently a

Born and raised within Western

Massachusetts, I studied locally in my

undergraduate career.

**About Valley Educational Associates, Inc.**: Incorporated 1982 as a 501(c )(3) nonprofit to provide vocational training, day services, and employment services to adults with disabilities. Valley Educational Associates serves over 95 individuals in three program locations in Western Massachusetts. The program model is structured into Community Based Day Services (CBDS) and Supported Employment (SE) settings. Valley Educational Associates has proudly has achieved nine consecutive *Certifications with Distinction* and participated in ten distinctive survey and certification reviews with the Office of Quality Enhancement (OQE) within the Office of Quality Management. Valley Education Associates is a member of the Human Service Forum, Providers’ Council and Northampton Chamber of Commerce. **Our Mission:** VEA’s specialized professionals strive to improve the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities.

About Holyoke Community College:

About Springfield College:

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