FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Maggie Ducheney Named Board Member for**

**Young Professionals Society of Greater Springfield**

HATFIELD, MA (December 6, 2017) Valley Educational Associates, Inc., a nonprofit that supports adults with developmental disabilities through supported employment and day services in Springfield, Chicopee and West Hatfield, is pleased to announce Maggie Ducheney has recently joined the board of the Young Professionals Society of Greater Springfield.

Maggie Ducheney is the executive assistant at Valley Educational Associates, where she oversees the social media and marketing, fundraising, community outreach and administrative activities at Valley Educational Associates in Hatfield, MA. Ducheney is currently working on a Master’s in Public Administration and is a notary public. “I am very excited to be a board member of such a wonderful organization that provides networking and professional development opportunities for up and coming leaders.”

Kate DaSilva, executive director at Valley Educational Associates discussed the value of having staff involved in leadership capacities in the community. “The staff at VEA have valuable expertise and are committed to providing the communities we serve with excellence and quality. I am pleased that Maggie will be representing VEA in her new endeavors on the board of YPS.”

**About Valley Educational Associates, Inc.**: Incorporated as a nonprofit in 1982 to provide vocational training and employment services to adults with disabilities in Western MA. 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 Educational 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 Young Professionals Society of Greater Springfield:** The Young Professionals Society of Greater Springfield helps build a strong community by connecting its members to people, business and issues important to young professionals. Through a variety of educational, social and cultural programming, individuals and businesses are engaged in activities that allow members to become leaders, collaborators and continually energized by new ideas.

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