



October 14, 2021
For Immediate Release

Skills' CEO Rebecca Aungst Named Distinguished Citizen of the Year

(ALTOONA, Pa.)—Rebecca Aungst, President & CEO of Skills of Central PA, will be retiring from the Skills organization on December 31, 2021, after serving for thirty-three years. On Wednesday, September 29th, Rebecca was honored by the Kiwanis Club of Altoona, Pennsylvania, as their Distinguished Citizen of the Year for her contributions to Skills, where she has helped enhance the lives of so many people. In addition to the award, local dignitaries were on hand to present Rebecca with certificates of commendation and citations from the City of Altoona, Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and the U.S. House of Representatives.

"I was truly honored to even be nominated for the award of Distinguished Citizen of the Year," said Aungst. "It was a wonderful way to culminate my thirty-three years with the Skills organization as I move into retirement. I am grateful to those who nominated me, to the Altoona Kiwanis for hosting such a lovely evening, and for all of the dedicated employees who work at the Skills organization."

Rebecca was born and raised in Altoona, Pennsylvania, and later graduated from Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in counselor education. She first began working with people with disabilities as a direct support professional and case manager in Blair County. She spent the next four years in West Virginia supervising and developing residential programs for people with disabilities before moving back to Altoona in 1988 to start her career with Skills of Central PA.

Rebecca began her career at Skills as a Residential Manager and had worked her way into the role of CEO by 2016. In her role as CEO, Aungst has continued to support the organization through its most challenging time during the COVID-19 pandemic. During her tenure, she has continued to advocate with legislators for better wages for employees, set the strategic direction of the organization to prepare it for future success, and worked to ensure high-quality support for people living with disabilities and mental health challenges.

"We want Becky to know how grateful we are for her commitment to our mission," said Skills' Board Chair Marty Malone. "It was a real pleasure working with someone as professional and dedicated as Becky. She never lost sight of our vision of redefining our industry and making people our priority. The Board of Directors wishes her the very best!"

About Skills of Central PA

Skills of Central Pennsylvania is a non-profit health and human services organization that provides services and support for people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those recovering from mental health challenges. The organization was founded in 1960 in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, as a small day program to provide people with opportunities to have paid work, gain social skills, and become more independent in the community. Today, Skills is one of the largest human service providers in central Pennsylvania, offering services in 17 counties throughout the region and employing more than 1,000 people in a variety of professional, clinical, and direct support roles. Learn more about Skills at www.skillscentralpa.org.

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