

Social Media Language:

Twitter: Thank you Nina Del Rio for featuring Michele Ford, Inroads to Opportunities **@inroadsto** on your show “Get Connected” where she discussed National Autism Acceptance Month. To listen to the show, please click here: <https://bit.ly/41V1pLM>
@AllAboutNJ @NJTweetz #newjersey #allaboutnj #njnews #unioncounty #disabilities #employment #nationaldisabilitiesawarenessmonth #iHeartRadio #106.7LiteFM #GetConnected

Facebook: Thank you Nina Del Rio on **@106.7 Lite FM** for featuring Michele Ford, **@Inroads to Opportunities** on your show “Get Connected” where she discussed National Autism Acceptance Month. To listen to the show, please click here: <https://bit.ly/41V1pLM> **#newjersey #allaboutnj #njnews #unioncounty #disabilities #employment #nationaldisabilitiesawarenessmonth #iHeartRadio #106.7LiteFM #GetConnected**

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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Michele Ford, President & CEO, Inroads to Opportunities, Featured on iHeart Radio Podcast

Roselle, NJ - Michele Ford, President & CEO, Inroads To Opportunities, was featured on iHeart Radio on 106.7 Lite FM, "Get Connected," with Host Nina Del Rio where she discussed her role at Inroads and their acknowledgement of National Autism Acceptance Month. Inroads to Opportunities is a Union County, NJ based non-profit human services agency, that provides programs and services to individuals with disabilities.

During a wide-ranging conversation between Host Nina Del Rio and Michele Ford, President & CEO, Inroads To Opportunities, Ford covered her experience and responsibilities at Inroads and what she does for all of her student's successes. She notes that Inroads is one of the most diverse workplaces to be employed.

National Autism Acceptance Month helps Inroads to expand their outreach and increase awareness for individuals with Autism who are seeking employment. Ford mentions that 45% of Inroads students have Autism, but yet in the employment world 85% of people with Autism are unemployed. This is a huge statistic and obstacle that Inroads employees work around.

According to Michele Ford, President & CEO, Inroads, "the person themselves brings such an enrichment to the setting...we really need employers to open their doors just for practice, just to let someone come in and try." Exposure is necessary for these prospective employees in order to have a better understanding of their work environment and the expectations of their potential job.

To listen to the episode, please click here: <https://bit.ly/41V1pLM>

ABOUT MICHELE FORD:

For over 35 years, Michele has dedicated her life to serving the needs of individuals with disabilities. A life-long advocate, Michele has been a champion for this most vulnerable population by serving on the Union County Nonprofit Consortium, Union County Crisis Consortium and most recently addressing members of the US

Commission on Civil Rights in Washington, D.C. to raise awareness of choice in defense of employment options for individuals with disabilities.

ABOUT INROADS TO OPPORTUNITIES:

Since 1959, Inroads to Opportunities, formerly the Occupational Center of Union County, has provided programs and services to over 400 individuals each year with all types of disabilities and ranging in age from 16 through retirement. Programs and services include vocational preparation, transition from school to work, job placement and mental health services.

Inroads to Opportunities is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), an approved provider of the NJ Department of Labor, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Commission of the Blind and Visually Impaired. Inroads is licensed by the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services, NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services to provide partial care and the NJ Department of Developmental Disabilities to provide Day Habilitation Services. Inroads is an approved Medicaid provider, an approved Employment Network under the Ticket to Work Social Security initiative and an approved Benefits Planning and Counseling Service through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

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