



**Amalia Duarte**  
**Public Affairs Director**  
ECLC of NJ  
Cell: (973-902-8390)  
E-mail: [aduarte@eclcofnj.org](mailto:aduarte@eclcofnj.org)

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Oct. 29, 2013**

**ECLC Students with Special-Needs Learn Creative Printmaking  
and Celebrate 25 Years in Chatham**

CHATHAM – Students at ECLC of New Jersey’s school for children with special needs are seeing downtown Chatham with a new perspective as part of a year-long arts project celebrating 25 years in the community.

The project started with a group of students taking a walking tour to photograph places they love to visit in the community – from the train station to the bank. Now, other students are using those photographs as inspiration to create prints under the guidance of Eileen Foti, a master print-maker who is at the school this year through a grant from the Artists in Education Consortium.

Over the next few months, the students will design prints to be exhibited in an art show and featured in a town-wide directory that will be sold to help fund the school’s art program and also to recognize the community’s longtime support of ECLC.

Since moving to Chatham in 1989, teachers have used the community as an extension of the classroom for enhancing students’ daily living skills and independence with weekly visits to the bank, grocery, library, post office, drug store, restaurants and more. “We are thrilled that Eileen will be working here as an artist-in-residence and giving our students an opportunity to learn this medium and celebrate our connection with Chatham,” said ECLC Art Teacher Mary Ann Walter.

The project will culminate with a public art show on March 6, and the entire community will be invited to view the artwork and enjoy light refreshments.

ECLC is excited to have an artist of Foti’s caliber working with students. She is a professor at William Paterson University; the Master Printer of the Brodsky Center for Innovative Editions at Rutgers

University; and the Interim Education Director at Tamarind Institute. Her work is included in collections all over the world. She has received fellowships from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation and has had residencies in countries, including Morocco, South Africa, Botswana, Thailand, Croatia and Russia. She is on the Board of Advisors for the Artist Proof Studio in Johannesburg and Crow's Shadow Institute on the Umatilla Reservation in Oregon. She is on the Board of Directors at the Printmaking Center of New Jersey and also the ArtsGuild NJ.

### **About the Artists-in-Education Program**

The Artists-in-Education Program is a cosponsored project of Arts Horizons, Young Audiences New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania and the New Jersey State Council in the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional funding is provided by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the ECLC of New Jersey Foundation.

### **About ECLC**

Established in 1970, ECLC of New Jersey offers lifelong services -- education, enrichment and employment -- to children and adults with special needs, including those diagnosed with autism, Down syndrome and severe learning and/or language disabilities. ECLC has schools in Chatham and Ho-Ho-Kus enrolling more than 300 students.

As students prepare to graduate, transition specialists from ECLC's affiliate Community Personnel Services (CPS), take over, guiding them into the next chapter of their lives. CPS specialists help students find meaningful jobs in their communities and provide ongoing support and advocacy in the workplace.

Graduates who are not ready for work are guaranteed a spot in the P.R.I.D.E. program, where they enhance their independent living skills, socialize with peers and volunteer. A defining hallmark of P.R.I.D.E. is that clients choose their activities and are rarely in the center all day. Learn more about ECLC at [www.eclcofnj.org](http://www.eclcofnj.org).

ECLC is a member of the Alliance of Private Special Education Schools of North Jersey, a coalition of more than 30 state-approved private special education schools dedicated to helping parents and educators better understand and access appropriate program options. Learn more about the Alliance at <http://specialeducationalliancenj.org>.