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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**ECLC of New Jersey Teacher Named 'Educator of the Year'**

**HO-HO-KUS, NJ** – ECLC of New Jersey teacher Diane Haderthauer has been named the state's "Educator of the Year" in a competition sponsored by ASAH, a non-profit organization of private schools and agencies serving students with disabilities. She was selected in a rigorous process from among educators at 135 ASAH member schools throughout the state.

A teacher for 20 years with [ECLC of New Jersey's](#) special needs school in Ho-Ho-Kus, Haderthauer was selected in a rigorous process from among educators at 135 member schools throughout New Jersey.

Based in Chatham, ECLC operates schools in Ho-Ho-Kus and Chatham that educate more than 300 students, ages 5-21, with severe learning and/or language disabilities, autism or multiple disabilities. For its own graduates and other adult clients, ECLC provides job placements and transition services through Community Personnel Services, Inc., and independent living skills habilitation in its P.R.I.D.E. day and evening programs. Both programs are based in Chatham.

Haderthauer was initially chosen last spring as the Region I winner, following an intensive process that included interviews with each candidate, representing schools in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic and Union counties. In the last stage of competition during ASAH's annual convention held

earlier this month, Haderthauer and three other finalists were brought up on stage for the surprise announcement.

With a long list of achievements, Haderthauer has demonstrated a commitment to innovation and excellence throughout her career. As the school's graduating class's teacher, Haderthauer works closely with ECLC's supported employment agency and the school's transition program to prepare students for the next chapter in their young lives.

Among Haderthauer's many accomplishments: she initiated a Dance Program, teaching tap and modern dance in afterschool programs and for ECLC's summer program. She started and co-chaired a semi-formal dance for students. She is the school's first classroom teacher to participate in the Adopt-a-Dog program, helping students to care for and train a future service dog for Canine Companions for Independence (CCI).

In addition, she has organized business projects and plays, including a memorable staging of "12 Angry Men"; chaperoned many afterschool trips and respites (sleepovers); and served as the Boy Scout liaison for five years. Clearly as a "hands-on" teacher, Haderthauer exemplifies how ECLC doesn't limit education to work in the classroom.

### **About ECLC**

Founded in 1970, ECLC has grown from a small, early-intervention program for children into a comprehensive network of non-profit agencies serving the special-needs community across central and northern New Jersey. ECLC's services begin with two schools in Chatham and Ho-Ho-Kus that enroll more than 300 students, ages 5-21, and continue through adulthood with supported employment and alumni enrichment programs.