



Amalia Duarte
Public Relations Director
ECLC of NJ
Tel: 973-635-1705 X26
E-mail: aduarte@eclcofnj.org

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECLC of NJ's Chatham School Graduates 27 Special-Needs Students *Students reflect on their school days during poignant ceremony*

CHATHAM, NJ – On June 17, ECLC of New Jersey's Chatham campus celebrated the graduation of 27 of its special-needs students. The young adults received high school diplomas conferred by their hometown districts, and each enjoyed the limelight for at least a few moments, as they took center stage to reflect back on field trips, favorite classes and making friends, while thanking their teachers and parents for support.

The Kiwanis Club of the Chathams President Richard Behling presented each graduate with a \$100 award, and additional community awards were given out by the Chatham Jaycees and the Chatham branches of Investors Bank, Peapack-Gladstone Bank and TD Bank.

ECLC educates a diverse population of students with severe learning and/or language disabilities, autism spectrum disorder or multiple disabilities. And, this group of graduates reflected that diversity in their wide range of plans for the next chapter in their young lives. Two graduates will attend the College of New Jersey, one plans to enroll in community college and others will work full- or part-time in child care or retail jobs. Several students will join ECLC's P.R.I.D.E. program, which offers vocational skills training, independent living skills and more to special-needs adults.

About ECLC

Celebrating its 40th anniversary, ECLC has grown from a small, early-intervention program into a comprehensive network of non-profit agencies serving special-needs children and adults throughout central and northern New Jersey. ECLC educates more than 300 students at schools in Chatham and

Ho-Ho-Kus. For its graduates and other disabled adult clients, ECLC provides transition services after high school and job placements through Community Personnel Services, Inc., and vocational skills and independent living skills training in its P.R.I.D.E. adult day and evening programs.