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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ECLC of New Jersey's Special-Needs School

Celebrates 25 Years in Ho-Ho-Kus

HO-HO-KUS – Armed with a pair of giant ceremonial scissors, Principal Vicki Lindorff attempted to snip a silver-colored ribbon to commemorate a big milestone for the school: 25 years in Ho-Ho-Kus serving students with special needs. The thin ribbon was surprisingly resilient. It took a few hacks, and a tug from Assistant Principal Steve Collins before the ribbon yielded and fell to a huge round of applause from the crowd.

Cutting a ribbon is nothing compared to the challenges faced by Principal Lindorff over the many years she has led ECLC's Bergen County school, and just like at the ceremony, she keeps at it until the job is done. The school educates nearly 100 students, who are diagnosed with a range of developmental disabilities, and maintains a strong focus on preparing them for life after graduation when entitled services from the state end.

During the ceremony, Lindorff accepted a stack of official government proclamations and embossed certificates and enjoyed words of congratulations from elected officials, business people, ECLC trustees and other guests.

Waldwick Mayor Thomas Giordano (representing the borough with Councilwoman Deb Dellavechia) said many kind words, including, "ECLC has been here since 1990, and we are very grateful to the educators, to the students, and especially, to the parents, who have made the school the great success that it is."

On behalf of the local elected officials, aides to the Office of Bergen County Executive James Tedesco III and a staff member from state Sen. Kevin O'Toole, and state Assemblymen Scott T. Rumana and David Russo delivered brief speeches as well.

However, the school's true meaning and impact on children was arguably best expressed by a parent, Christine Coleman, who spoke about the difference of sending her child to a school that is solely dedicated to children with special needs, like her 9-year-old.

"After my first visit to ECLC, I knew this was the place for my son," said Coleman, whose son has been enrolled for two years. "They give students opportunities that other schools do not. Everyone here, the teachers, the specialists, the therapists, the paraprofessionals, they get it when it comes to working with children with special needs."

About ECLC

Established in 1970 as a program for early-intervention, ECLC of New Jersey is an accredited, nonprofit offering "Education, Careers and Lifelong Community" to children and adults with special needs, including those diagnosed with a range of disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, other developmental disabilities as well as medical challenges. ECLC runs schools in Chatham and Ho-Ho-Kus educating some 300 students, from ages 5-21. ECLC graduates can enter the P.R.I.D.E. adult centers in Florham Park or Paramus, or get find a job in their community through ECLC's employment affiliate, Community Personnel Services, based in Chatham. Learn more about ECLC at www.eclcofnj.org.