



Amalia Duarte
Public Affairs Director
ECLC of NJ
Tel: 973-635-1705 X26
Cell: (973-902-8390)
E-mail: aduarte@eclcofnj.org

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CPS Employment Specialist Wins State Recognition for
Helping People with Disabilities Find Meaningful Jobs**

CHATHAM, NJ – Recently, Jennifer Rokosh was named the statewide "Employment Specialist of the Year" by the New Jersey chapter of APSE, a national nonprofit that advocates for the employment of persons with disabilities.

Rokosh was cited for being a "voice in the workplace" for her clients, who have a range of disabilities, including autism, traumatic brain injuries or physical challenges. She works for ECLC of New Jersey's Community Personnel Services (CPS) based in Chatham helping her clients find meaningful employment and then supporting them so they successfully keep their jobs. She also helps students with special needs who are about to graduate in their transition from the classroom to the workplace or another appropriate alternative.

She began working with CPS in 2007 and was promoted to Transition Coordinator a few years later. The nonprofit agency is an affiliate of ECLC of New Jersey, a nonprofit organization also based in Chatham that offers education and services to people with developmental disabilities.

"One of Jen's most impressive traits is her ability to approach barriers to employment with creative ideas which helps to eliminate both employee and employer concerns," wrote CPS Director Alison Chernela in nominating Rokosh. "Any time a client needs a voice at the workplace, Jen is there. Jen is innovative, caring and quick to think of ways to provide the employers opportunities to get to know the clients for their expertise not their challenges."

About CPS

In these challenging economic times, CPS is able to place 93 percent of its clients, who are adults with special needs, in meaningful jobs. They do everything from driving forklifts to corralling shopping carts in parking lots to stocking shelves. CPS clients work for dozens of employers, including Acme Markets of Randolph, the Home Depot in Parsippany, ISP Chemical of Chatham, Marshalls of Paramus, Morris View Nursing Home in Morristown, Panera Bread in Florham Park, Sears of Rockaway and Shop-Rite of Parsippany.

CPS was established in 1995 by ECLC of New Jersey to help their graduating students with special needs and other adult clients find meaningful employment. Based on their skills, abilities and interests, transitioning students sample jobs prior to graduation with the goal of identifying the best match. For students who may not be ready for employment, the CPS staff arranges tours of programs and assistance in locating funding sources for those programs. CPS also helps clients navigate through the maze of state and federal agencies to access aid, services and transportation. Learn more about CPS at <http://www.cpsfnj.org>.

About ECLC

Founded in 1970, ECLC has grown from a small, early-intervention program into a comprehensive network of non-profit agencies serving more than 600 children and adults with special needs, including autism, Down syndrome, severe learning and/or language disabilities or multiple disabilities. In addition to CPS, ECLC runs schools, for students ages 5-21, in Ho-Ho-Kus and Chatham and has P.R.I.D.E. Centers in Chatham and Bergen County, offering day and evening programs for adults with special needs. Learn more about ECLC at www.eclcofnj.org.