

Promising Futures

Inside ASAH



ASAH is a not-for-profit association of over 150 approved private schools and agencies in New Jersey serving children with significant complex disabilities. Contact ASAH to learn more about a full range of private school options and services, and about schools near you. Call 877-287-ASAH (2724). Or visit us online www.asah.org.

REACHING OUT TO SUPPORT EXCELLENCE:

Public/Private Partnerships in Special Education

When Congressional leaders wrote IDEA in 1975, they knew that in order for all students with disabilities to achieve their potential, they needed to establish a continuum of options that includes all resources and talent – public and private. In ASAH's 42-year history, public partnerships have never been more important – or more apparent.

In New Jersey, public school decision-makers turn to private schools to educate more than 11,000 students with disabilities every year - students for whom public school programs are not appropriate. But beyond that, our member schools are teaming up with public schools to help build local capacity and increase options.

It often begins with training. Last winter, educational leaders from Westbridge Academy in Bloomfield, New Jersey provided a program of training in Union City. The training came about after Westbridge Academy was recommended to Union City as a training resource during a meeting of Hudson County special education leaders.



Dr. Viviana Litovsky and Dr. Anthony Hadzimichalis of Westbridge Academy in Bloomfield, NJ, presenting on meeting the needs of students with disabilities in a culturally, economically, and linguistically diverse school setting. The presentation was made at Union City Public Schools, in Union, NJ.

The training focused on how to meet the needs of students with disabilities in a culturally, economically, and linguistically diverse school setting.

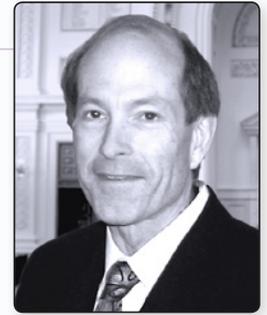
“We have been in the community for more than 40 years and are a resource for schools in the area,” said Dr. Viviana Litovsky, Executive Director. “Opportunities like this give us the chance to have an impact on more students and stakeholders,” she concluded.

Other ASAH member schools are offering supports to public schools, including consultation, assessment and evaluation, inclusion supports, related services, Functional Behavioral Assessment, curriculum design and implementation, assistive technology assistance and community-based transition services, to name a few.

At the statewide level, ASAH has proudly teamed up with New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) every year since 1985 for Special Education Week. The event celebrates the achievements of the state's 232,000 students who receive special education and the work of the teachers, parents, school administrators and others who support them.

NJSBA and ASAH recognized 10 public and private schools for their special education programming through the “Innovations in Special Education” awards program.

To learn more about public/private partnerships and consultation services, go to ASAH.org.



Gerry Thiers
ASAH Executive Director

We Are All in This Together: Partnering with Public Schools

There are two important facts that must be understood about private special education in New Jersey.

First and foremost, the over 10,000 students who attended ASAH member schools each year are placed by their public school district-local educators who have come to know our work and our programs. Year to year, there is no promise of enrollment. The decision about each student's placement is made individually – one at a time - often after considering a number of options. We have to earn your trust, one student at a time.

And second, we exist to serve students who cannot be effectively or appropriately served at the local level. As such, ASAH member schools strive to work in close collaboration with our public school partners.

Collaboration not only enhances the quality of special education programs, it helps to ensure that students with disabilities are served in the least restrictive setting, and have the greatest chance of returning to their local public school.

ASAH schools have teams of experts with specific expertise in educating students with complex needs.

"ASAH member schools strive to work in close collaboration with our public school partners."

We can concentrate solely on special education, helping students stay in school, reach key benchmarks, graduate and get jobs or move on to college. We are good at what we do, because it is our specialty. It is ALL we do.

When considering the needs of the students in your district – especially those with complex needs - I invite you to turn to your colleagues in private special education programs. We are a resource for you, whether you are looking for out-of district placement, or consultation services to help you better support students in your local classrooms.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerry Thiers".

Gerry Thiers
ASAH Executive Director

SAVE THE DATE: November 18, 2016

39th Annual ASAH Conference, featuring Jessica Minahan, M.Ed, BCBA , author of The Behavior Code. This year, our conference will be held at the new Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center.

New Transition Booklets Available

The long-awaited update and reprint of ASAH's Guide to Transition Planning is here. The booklet is free of charge and is a resource to transition coordinators in NJ. To order the booklet, call ASAH at 609-890-1400.



ASAH in ACTION



Alpine Learning Group (Region I) celebrates the grand opening of its new program for adults with autism. (L-R) Paramus Mayor Richard LaBarbiera; Mark Gladstone, Co-Founder, Alpine Learning Group; NJ

Senate President Stephen Sweeney; and Paramus Councilman Pat Verile.

Ocean Township Mayor, Chris Siciliano and members of the Ocean Township High School Administration join Schroth School students during LADACIN's first annual Sports Day, hosted by OTHS.



Ocean Township Mayor Chris Siciliano places a medal on a champion Schroth School student.



Somerset County Freeholder Brian Levine joins The Center School's Executive Director, Marcie Fiorentino at the school's graduation celebration.



Greenbrook Academy students and staff meet with Trenton Mayor Eric Jackson.



Greenbrook Academy students and staff meet with Camden Mayor Dana Redd as part of a lesson on civics and government.

Garfield Park Academy welcomed NJ Assemblyman Troy Singleton as the commencement speaker at graduation ceremonies this spring.



ASAH Educator, Paraprofessional and Related Services Provider of the Year
Congratulations to our 2016 Regional Finalists. Statewide winners will be announced at the Conference on Nov. 18th.

Educator of the Year

Region I – Heidi Ritzel
(ECLC of Ho-Ho-Kus)

Region II – Joyce Lewis
(P.G. Chambers School)

Region III – Sarah Pena
(LADACIN Network)

Region IV – Jenna Uppal
(St. John of God Archbishop Damiano School)

Paraprofessional of the Year

Region I – Elaina Cassera
(ECLC of Ho-Ho-Kus)

Region II – Beth-Ann Ribaud
(Chapel Hill Academy)

Region III – Carlos Eugenio
(The Rugby School at Woodfield)

Region IV – Beverly Thomas-Layton
(Garfield Park Academy)

Related Services Provider of the Year

Region I – Pamela Barnes
(Spectrum360, formerly, The Children's Institute)

Region II – Sarah Clark
(P.G. Chambers School)

Region III – Stephanie Farrell
(Collier Middle School)

Region IV – Sheri Roseman
(Garfield Park Academy)



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**Visit our website
at www.asah.org**

Innovations in Special Education

Congratulations to the winners of the 2016 Innovations in Special Education Program Awards. This year, four of the ten winners were ASAH member schools. Be sure to ask your colleagues more about their winning and innovative initiatives!



The Bridge Academy
Social House Program



The Matheny School
Peace of Mind Preschool Program



P.G. Chambers School
The ATEAM Approach: Linking Education, Access and Movement



Chapel Hill Academy
Arts for the 21st Century