



Linda J. Jacobs, Ed. D.  
Executive Director  
Yvonne Callaway  
Administrative Director

Martha Schneider  
Program Director

Leigh Cloyd  
Fiscal Coordinator

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**CONTACT:** Stephen Peacock  
443-394-3760 x135

***Dr. Linda Jacobs of The Harbour School Represents Baltimore at the International Association of Special Education Conference in Hong Kong***

Owings Mills, MD, June 5, 2007 – In less than a week she'll be in Hong Kong. Half a world away from The Harbour School that she founded 25-years ago. As Executive Director of The Harbour School of Annapolis and Baltimore, Dr. Linda Jacobs knows a thing or two about special education. But, it's her knowledge of ways to address a worldwide shortage of certified special education teachers that has the members of the International Association of Special Education looking forward to her presentation "More than One Way to Certification."

Amongst hundreds of special educators from all around the world, Dr. Jacobs will lead a session on Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Held in collaboration with the University of Hong Kong's Faculty of Education and Center for Advancement, the IASE conference will consist of 3 full days of educational sessions on technology, learning models, teaching methods, the fostering social skills, and assisting in the transition to adulthood for students with special needs. The weeklong conference will conclude with the ISAE board meeting and guided tours of educational facilities in Hong Kong.

The shortage of certified special education teachers, which has been described as severe, chronic, and pervasive, threatens the quality of educational services received by students with disabilities here in the US and internationally. In recent years researchers have investigated the magnitude of the special education teacher shortage problem and factors that contribute to the imbalance between supply and demand. Dr. Jacobs' presentation will highlight methods of teacher preparation used here in Maryland, and nationally, which offer alternative paths to full certification for those interested in becoming a special education teacher. Viable and reliable alternatives to teacher preparation are one approach to addressing the persistent, worldwide special education teacher shortage.

**Dr. Jacobs founded The Harbour School**, a registered 501(c) 3 nonprofit school, an innovative educational organization providing supportive, caring, and individualized education to students with learning and other disabilities from first through twelfth grade by assisting each child to attain academic, personal achievement, and success commensurate with the child's abilities. Currently the school is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year of continuous service to Maryland students. At campuses in Annapolis and in Baltimore County the school provides special education programs for more than 260 students from 14 school systems within Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia.

For more information about Dr. Jacobs' trip to Hong Kong or The Harbour School contact:  
Stephen Peacock at 443-394-3760 X 135 or email [speacock@harbourschool.org](mailto:speacock@harbourschool.org)

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1277 Green Holly Drive, Annapolis, Maryland 21409 (T) 410 974 4248 (F) 410 757 3722  
11251 Dolfield Blvd., Owings Mills, Maryland 21117 (T) 443-394-3760 (F) 443-394-3765  
**Visit us at our website: [www.harbourschool.org](http://www.harbourschool.org)**