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Contact: Yvonne Hudson, 410-974-4248 (voice mail 101)  
Mobile: 443-876-7569 Email: [yhudson@harbourschool.org](mailto:yhudson@harbourschool.org)

**HARBOUR SCHOOL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ADDRESSES GLOBAL  
SPECIAL EDUCATORS ON PREPARING COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS**

**Linda J. Jacob, founder of innovative Maryland school, speaks at International  
Association of Special Education Biennial Conference in Alicante, Spain**

Pathways for special education students to enter college will be explored when founder and executive director of The Harbour School ([www.harbourschool.org](http://www.harbourschool.org)) speaks on "You, too, May Go to College" at the International Association of Special Education (IASE) Biennial Conference in the University of Alicante, Spain, on July 14. Jacobs will discuss the realistic approach special educators may take to steer students to higher education options.

"At The Harbour School," says Jacobs, "we have learned that teaching students to rise to their potential--rather than teaching 'to the test and standards'--prepares many of our graduates to aspire to college-level study."

"While individuals may pursue college for many reasons," Jacobs observes, "we find Harbour students are more likely to approach learning for learning's sake. They have already worked long and hard to reach the goal of earning a high school certificate.

"Many Harbour students who were not perceived to be 'college material' have gone on to successfully complete both two- and four-year programs," Jacobs reports. "Moreover, they are prepared for more diverse career options and for life."

The Harbour School's annual graduate outcome surveys have measured the effectiveness of the school's program. More than 90% of Harbour graduates are successfully employed, enrolled in post secondary education, or both. The number of alumni in post-secondary educational programs and the number of those focusing only on education continue to increase. The Harbour School's 2009 post-graduate survey will be published later this summer.

"In a country where the unemployment rate of individuals with disabilities exceeds 75%," says Jacobs, "we are proud to know that we are effectively preparing students to contribute to the health of their communities by leading successful lives."

At the IASE conference, Jacobs will present on the advantages of integrated special education programs that stress development of "life skills" and the "soft" job skills that make a better employee.

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"Social skills place an important role in a successful life at work, so we provide training to prepare young people to best communicate and relate in many situations," Jacobs says.

Using The Harbour School's program in conjunction with Community College of Baltimore County as a model, Jacobs will share how special educators may develop a similar program to move students comfortably from high school to college. The CCBC Harbour Horizons program extends the definition of college to include the more practical side of preparing to be a citizen as well as extended career options.

"In a special education environment, this transition involves attending to the whole person," Jacobs adds. "We aim to have our Harbour experience strengthen students' abilities to be both successful college students and citizens in all aspects of their lives."

The Harbour School celebrates its 28<sup>th</sup> year of providing a supportive, caring and individualized education to students with learning disabilities, autism, speech language impairments, and other disabilities like ADD/ADHD in grades 1- 12. Each child is assisted in attaining academic and personal achievement and success commensurate with the child's abilities. Personal achievement includes success in social, physical and vocational skills. The Harbour School is located in both Annapolis and at Owings Mills near Baltimore. For information, visit online at [www.harbourschool.org](http://www.harbourschool.org) or call 410-974-4248.

The International Association of Special Education, founded in 1989, is an organization of professionals dedicated to improving the quality of life and service delivery for all individuals identified as having special needs. Members include teachers, teacher trainers, professors, speech clinicians, psychologist, health care providers, social workers, counselors, family members and those associated with related disciplines. The June 12-16 conference draws more than 500 special educators from more than 40 countries.

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