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Hudson Community Enterprises Hosts 1970's Disco Prom for its ACCESS Graduates

Jersey City Board of Education Executives to Attend

Jersey City, NJ, June 7, 2005 – Hudson Community Enterprises (HCE), a collaborative non-profit enterprise made up of forward-thinking social ventures and innovative employment preparation programs that help special needs people become self-sufficient, today announced it is hosting its second annual ACCESS (Attaining Community Choices through Empowerment and Self Sufficiency) Prom on **Friday, June 17, 2005, at 780 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, NJ from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.** Special guests include Jersey City Board of Education and State District Superintendent of Schools Dr. Charles T. Epps, Jr., Associate Superintendent, Division B Schools Mr. Franklin Walker and Associate Superintendent Ms. Priscilla Petrosky.

ACCESS students are celebrating their completion of special education curricula including learning about the community in which they live and the basics of independent living. For instance they've learned about how to use public transportation, how to make bank deposits, how to shop for food and much more.

This year 70 ACCESS students and their dates are expected to attend the "1970's Disco" prom and shake their booty to songs like Disco Inferno, Kung Fu Fighting, Night Fever, and Ring My Bell by icons like the Bee Gees, Patti LaBelle, KC and the Sunshine Band, and Gloria Gaynor.

The red carpet will sizzle once again in 2005 as Cheryl Smith-McInnis makes her return to chronicle the 1970 fashion hits at the second Annual ACCESS prom. As the exclusive red-carpet host of HCE's live pre-show coverage of the ACCESS prom, Cheryl McInnis will greet all the foxy kings and queens of the prom and get the 411 on "who" they are wearing while critiquing their groovy 1970's couture.

Special thanks to Digna and Samuel Planas who live in Catonsville in the state of Maryland, parents of Monica Planas, Head Teacher at Hudson Community Enterprises for their generous donation and preparation of all the food for the event. And special thanks to all HCE staff who have generously donated time and materials to make the prom a very special event.

"Our graduates will be taking their first steps as adults into a world in which they have the ability to create opportunities for success," said Director of Transition Services Ivy James. "Through the ACCESS Program our students learned independent living skills that make it possible for them to become self-sufficient. They've worked diligently. They've worked hard. And they deserve this celebration," she said.

"Our ACCESS students worked enthusiastically to gain the knowledge and skills that will take them into the future," said HCE President Maureen Walliser. "And we will continue to support them for as long as they need it. We are all proud of them, especially their teachers who have gone out of their way to put this event together. In fact, all the decorations, the food and the music were provided by HCE employees and their families. Their pride in their graduates is very clear."

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About the ACCESS Program

The ACCESS Program (Attaining Community Choices through Empowerment and Self Sufficiency) provides a strong alliance among students, faculty, administration and the community, all of which work together to provide students with opportunities for community involvement. It is designed to integrate academic learning with real-life experience. The ACCESS Program takes the subjects that students normally study in school and adds information about people, jobs, and the community. As part of the program students earn academic credit and explore the real dimensions of different types of careers. The ACCESS program consists of three sub-programs including the Vocational Assessment Program which offers tools to assess students' interests, preferences, aptitudes and capabilities; the Shared-Time Program where students attend school for a half-day and attend HCE's programs for a half- day; and the Job Coaching Program which offers continuous pre-placement support that promotes positive and effective job seeking skills. For more information about the ACCESS Program, call 201-434-3303 or visit our web site at <http://www.hudsoncommunity.org/access.htm>.

About Hudson Community Enterprises

Hudson Community Enterprises is a collaborative non-profit enterprise made up of forward-thinking social ventures and innovative employment preparation programs that enable special needs people to become self-sufficient. HCE has been serving Hudson County for 47 years and offers vocational training in a variety of employment areas, vocational rehabilitation and job placement programs. HCE's four social ventures include Metro Fulfillment providing a complete range of fulfillment services since 1957, Metro Shredding, a mobile shredding company providing secure on-site and off-site shredding services on a scheduled and one-time basis, Metro Scanning providing complete document scanning/digitizing, indexing, categorization and microfilm production services, and Metro Litter Patrol, providing litter clean-up around Hudson County. HCE has offices located at 68-70 Tuers Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey; and 780 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, New Jersey. For more information please call 866-324-3337 or visit our web site at www.hudsoncommunity.org.

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