

# Newgrange School

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Nicole Scheller of the Newgrange School Named Transition Educator of the Year by NJ APSE**

*PRINCETON, NJ, April 2019* – Nicole E. Scheller, language arts teacher and transition coordinator for The Newgrange School of Hamilton, NJ, a state-approved private resource for individuals with such learning challenges as autism, Asperger's Syndrome, and dyslexia, has been named "Transition Educator of the Year" by the New Jersey Association of People Supporting Employment First (NJ APSE).

The award was presented on Friday, March 22, at the Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, NJ, during the NJ APSE awards luncheon at "Facing Future 27," a conference highlighting best practices in supporting people with disabilities in career planning, supported and customized employment, and transition from school to work.

"We are so proud of Nicole and her achievements in helping Newgrange students transition to employment," said Tim Viands, CEO/Head of Schools of The Newgrange School of Princeton, Inc. "The path for a new high school graduate isn't always clear, and for a student with disabilities, more coordinated planning is often required. Under Nicole's guidance, our Transition Program has supported many students in reaching their goals after graduation from Newgrange and beyond."

A school-wide program aligned with New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards for 21st Century Life and Careers, the Transition Program at Newgrange is presented across all grades and content areas with the collective goal of post-secondary success for all its students.

According to Jeanne Cruz, a Newgrange teacher/job coach who nominated Scheller for the NJ APSE award, Scheller is passionate

about providing each of school's more than 90 students with an opportunity to achieve a fulfilling future.

"Nicole created a successful transition program in which students participate in regular academic classes, a life and vocational skills class, a social skills class, office skill development, and consistent volunteer opportunities in the community," said Cruz. "Then there is a parent information transition night, career day, an interview preparation and practice unit, and career exploration trips—all coordinated by Nicole."

Scheller also arranges consultations between the Transition Program staff and related service professionals including job coaches, therapists, and a behavior analyst, to better prepare the students for adulthood.

"Nicole seems to fit more than 24 hours into a work day and never complains," added Cruz. "Her vision to help all students with disabilities succeed is truly admirable."

Scheller received her M.S. in Education – Teaching Urban Adolescents with Disabilities from Long Island University, and her B.A. from Oberlin College. She is a member of the Transition Coordinators Network of New Jersey.

For more information about The Newgrange School of Hamilton, which is part of The Newgrange School of Princeton, Inc., contact Kelly Dun, assistant head for external relations at 609.584.1800 x293.

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*PHOTO CAPTION: [with photo of Nicole and Jeanne at event] Nicole E. Scheller (left), language arts teacher and transition coordinator for The Newgrange School, has been named "Transition Educator of the Year" by the New Jersey Association of People Supporting Employment First (NJ APSE). Scheller was nominated for the award by Newgrange's Teacher/Job Coach Jeanne Cruz (right).*

VISIT: [The Newgrange School](#)

CONTACT:

Kelly Dun

Assistant Head for External Relations

Office: 609.584.1800 x293

Email: [kdun@laurelschoolprinceton.org](mailto:kdun@laurelschoolprinceton.org)