

Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners



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April 22, 2022

Congressman Chris Smith
112 Village Center Drive
Second Floor
Freehold, N.J. 07728

Dear Congressman Smith,

I am pleased to support the Achieve Academy for Adults with Autism in its request to receive federal funding for the improvement and expansion of their facilities in Wall Township.

I have served as the Vice Chair to the Monmouth Ocean Foundation for Children (MOFFC), a nonprofit that focuses exclusively on financially supporting programs that will enhance the lives of students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), for the past several years. With the numbers of children and adults living with ASD growing each year, MOFFC is embarking on its largest and most important program to date, the development of a continuing education program for adults with Autism: The Achieve Academy for Adults with Autism.

The effects of COVID-19 continue to wreak havoc on the mental health of both our youth and adults, especially those who are living with autism spectrum disorder. Once a student graduates from high school, it is difficult for individuals and their families to find high-quality continuing education programs that will provide the services, training, and coaching these adults need to be employed or live purposeful lives. In addition, coordinating and securing important services, such as speech, occupational or physical therapy, or behavior therapies is often confusing and expensive, putting both financial and emotional stress on families.

The program, which will be located on the Brookdale Community College Campus in Wall Township, will be a daily continuing education program that will provide job training and coaching as well as employment placement in local businesses and organizations. In addition, adults will also continue to have access to valuable services, such as behavioral therapies, speech, occupational and physical therapy and life skills programming so that they can continue to grow and develop independent life skills, which will greatly enrich their lives and our communities.

Thank you for your consideration in reviewing the Achieve Academy for Adults with Autism's request. I am proud to recommend them for federal funding and look forward to the impact these improvements will have on the Monmouth County community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A. Arnone". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Thomas A. Arnone
Director Monmouth County Board of Commissioners

"SEPTEMBER 2d, 1609 THIS IS A VERY GOOD LAND TO FALL IN WITH AND A PLEASANT LAND TO SEE."

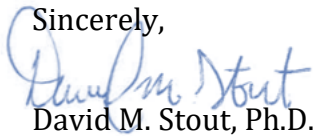
Entry in the log of Henry Hudson's Ship Half Moon made after the Dutch Explorer became the first European to come ashore in what was later known as Monmouth County

April 22, 2022

Dear Congressman Smith,

On behalf of Brookdale Community College, I am proud to submit this letter of support for community project funding in the amount of \$500,000 to be allocated to the Achieve Academy for Adults with Autism. As you know very well, the prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in New Jersey significantly exceeds the national average. The Board of Directors of the Monmouth-Ocean Foundation for Children have committed to developing a to provide life and job skills for adults with ASD who are aging out of the public-school system. A Congressional Allocation of community project funds will provide resources to deliver much needed services to adults with ASD and their families. Thank you for considering this request and for your constant support of the ASD community.

Sincerely,



David M. Stout, Ph.D.

President

Brookdale Community College