



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 7, 2016

**EDEN AUTISM APPOINTS RACHEL TAIT
AS CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER**

PRINCETON, NJ – Eden Autism, a leading autism service provider founded in 1975, has named Rachel Tait, MA, MEd, as Chief Program Officer effective July 1, 2016. With this promotion, Ms. Tait's responsibilities will include leadership and oversight for both The Eden School and Eden Adult Services.

"I am very pleased to announce Rachel's expanded role and responsibilities in Eden's primary programs – The Eden School and Eden Adult Services," said Peter Bell, President and CEO. "This move recognizes Rachel's outstanding leadership skills, her exceptional knowledge of Eden's participants across a broad range of ages and abilities, and her dedication to improving the lives of the individuals and families we serve."



Ms. Tait joined Eden in August, 2000, as a Teaching Assistant in Eden's Pre-Vocational class and quickly advanced to Lead Teacher of the Middle Childhood classroom. In June, 2004, Ms. Tait was promoted to Assistant Director of Family Support where she oversaw the Extended Day Program and Respite services and coordinated Eden's summer program, then held at the Wawa Education & Retreat Center in Connecticut. In 2005, she was promoted to Assistant Director of Educational Services and was responsible for management and oversight of the Wawa Education & Retreat Center and assisting with overall operations of The Eden School. In 2008, she became the Director of Educational Services and was instrumental in all aspects of school programming including Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and curriculum, staff development and supervision, and budget development and management. In July, 2015, Ms. Tait was promoted to Managing Director of Educational Services, responsible for oversight of The Eden School, Extended Day, and Respite.

Ms. Tait holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Elizabethtown College as well as two Masters degrees in Special Education and Educational Administration from Rider University. She completed a post-graduate certification program in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) from Penn State World Campus, and holds certificates in Elementary Education and Special Education, and Supervisor and Principal certification. Ms. Tait is a member of the National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC), served as the Chair of the Conference Planning Committee, and was elected to the Board in January, 2015. She is serving her third term as a commissioner for the National Commission for the Accreditation of Special Education Services (NCASES). Eden Autism is a member of NAPSEC and is accredited by NCASES. Ms. Tait was also elected to the Executive Board of ASAH (New Jersey Private School Association) in February, 2016.

Ms. Tait is a resident of Pennington, New Jersey and is an active volunteer with Special Olympics of New Jersey, Art All Night and the Trenton Punk Rock Flea Market.

About Eden Autism

A nationally recognized leader in improving the lives of individuals with autism spectrum disorder, Eden was among the first providers to address the need for services across the lifespan. 2015 marked our 40th year of excellence in a range of services for individuals, families, educators and other professionals. Eden improves the lives of people with autism - one individual at a time, one family at a time, one community at a time.

Visit www.edenautism.org or call [609.987.0099](tel:609.987.0099).

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