Dear SEPTA Peers,

I was wondering if you could share this very important conference information with you parents and colleagues.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me directly.

**“Know Before you Go”**

March 25, 2017

9:00am-4:00pm

Humanities Room 119 (Lecture Hall)

LIU Post

720 Northern Blvd., Greenvale, NY

This interactive workshop will outline the important components of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and the special education laws that protect the rights of students with disabilities. Participants will gain a better understanding of IEPs and the role of the parent/s in the development of an IEP. Workshop leaders will discuss ways to proactively address IEP concerns and provide tools and strategies to support future IEP meetings.

Location: LIU Post, Humanities Building room 119 Lecture Hall

COST: $10 for ELIJA Members; $25 for general attendees (Lunch Included)

**Christina D. Thivierge, Esq., Thivierge & Rothberg P.C.**

Christina Thivierge is a co-founding partner and principal in the law firm of Thivierge & Rothberg, P.C., a private law firm in New York City that concentrates on special education cases. Formerly, Christina was the Senior Associate at Mayerson & Associates where she handled special education matters (primarily for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders and related disabilities). Christina received her Juris Doctorate from the City University of New York School of Law and her Bachelors degree from Central Connecticut State University. Christina is admitted to practice law in the state and federal courts of New York and New Jersey, as well as a number of federal Courts of Appeal. In addition to litigating due process matters in New York, New Jersey, Indiana and Alaska, Christina has extensive federal court experience and has argued and presented dispositive motions and matters of first impression.

**Debora Thivierge, BCaBA, CBAA**, **Executive Director & Founder of ELIJA Foundation, School, Farm**

Debora received her BA in Sociology from Hofstra University and is a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst. She is the Founder of The ELIJA School and The ELIJA Foundation. Debora has volunteered her time to numerous Autism organizations and served as a board member of The Behavior Analyst Certification Board® (BACB®) and is currently appointed to the New York State Licensure Board for Applied Behavior Analysis. For the past 16 years, she has been providing advocacy to families and providing training workshops to promote evidence based instruction for families and educators who have been touched by Autism.  She has an 18 year old son with Autism.

**Jason Harris, Autism Self-Advocate**

Jason is a young adult diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. He is the creator of a film “This is the Voice of Autism” available on YouTube where he shares educational journey by highlighting the success applied behavior analysis has afforded him. He is currently a student at Vaughn College where he is pursuing a degree in airport management and aircraft operations. In addition, Jason in enrolled in ELIJA’s Transitional Programs and Services (TPS). As part of TPS, Jason has a paid internship which consists of assisting the ELIJA C staff with developing and implementing systems for monitoring their community supported agriculture program and their “just cAUse granola enterprise”. Jason is also taking an ELIJA General Life Skills course on the campus of LIU. Jason’s special interests include JetBlue, cars and driving.

Regards,

Debora Thiveirge, BCaBA, CBAA

The ELIJA Foundation

[www.elija.org](http://www.elija.org/)

<https://www.elija.org/events/view/Know-Before-You-Go-Being-an-Effective-Advocate-at-IEP-Meetings-2017-03-25/>