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Bancroft Presents Lecture by International Expert, Free Vendor Fair on Assistive Technology

-- November 12th event will also feature panel discussion by state agency representatives and assistive-technology product demonstrations--

Haddonfield, NJ—October 26, 2010—[Bancroft](#), a leading provider of programs and supports for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, autism and acquired brain injuries, will hold its semi-annual Clarence York Lecture and a free vendor fair on Friday, November 12, 2010. The event, titled “Breaking Through: Advances in Assistive Technology,” will feature leading experts, product demonstrations and more.

“Bancroft is pleased to present a three-part, day-long event on assistive technology -- one of the hottest topics in the disabilities field today -- as it eliminates barriers and enhances learning and abilities,” said Caroline Eggerding, M.D., Bancroft’s vice president of clinical services. “The renowned keynote speaker and panel of experts will provide a wealth of knowledge on the subject, and the vendor fair will enable attendees to test the latest devices and connect with new resources.”

Dr. Joy Smiley Zabala, an international expert on assistive technology, will present a keynote lecture titled “Ten things everyone needs to know about assistive technology,” which will focus on important guiding principles, concepts and processes that enable individuals with disabilities, professionals and families to collaborate on assistive technology practices.

Zabala has spent more than 25 years expanding the use of assistive technology around the globe for people with disabilities. She is currently director of technical assistance at the Center for Applied Special Technology, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit organization.

In addition to Zabala’s presentation, the York Lecture will feature a panel discussion on “Making assistive technology a reality for people with disabilities.” Experts from prominent organizations and agencies will discuss a range of options, suggestions and ideas for providing better access to assistive technology for those who can benefit from it.

Panelists will include:

- **Teresa Owens**, manager of the N.J. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services’ Camden Office

- **Harry Pizutelli**, Traumatic Brain Injury Fund Manager at the N.J. Division of Disability Services
- **Fred Tchang, ATP**, director of assistive technology services at the Assistive Technology Center (New Jersey's online resource for AT information and equipment)

Continuing education unit credits are available for educators for attendance at the lecture and panel discussion.

The free assistive technology vendor fair will showcase the latest devices, services and resources offered by a variety of assistive technology providers. Vendors include Advancing Opportunities, Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC)/Disability Rights NJ, Commission for the Blind, DynaVox Mayer-Johnson, InovaTech, Prentke Romich, Prox Talker, SW Unlimited LLC, Teach Me, and Tom Caine Associates.

The lecture, panel discussion and vendor fair are all part of the Clarence York Lecture Series, which was created in honor of Clarence Nelson York, Ed.D., a leading educator and advocate for people with disabilities for about 50 years. As president of Bancroft from 1964 to 1984, Dr. York greatly expanded the scope of the organization. Since that time, he has provided his expertise around the world to both governments and private entities.

Zabala's lecture and the panel discussion will take place at the Cherry Hill, N.J., Public Library from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bancroft will be offering the keynote presentation as a webinar for those who are not able to come out to the event. The vendor fair will be held at The Bancroft School in Haddonfield, N.J., from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information or to register for the event, please contact Kathy Ross at (856) 349-4008 or email kross@bnh.org.

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About Bancroft

A nonprofit organization founded in 1883, Bancroft annually serves more than 1,300 children and adults with intellectual and developmental challenges and acquired brain injuries. Bancroft strives to ensure that every person is given opportunities for lifelong learning and fulfillment. It does this by altering perceptions and supporting people with neurological challenges in achieving their life goals as valued and respected members of our world.

Based in Haddonfield, N.J., Bancroft has sites in Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, Ocean, Salem and Middlesex counties, New Jersey; in New Castle County, Delaware; and in Philadelphia, Delaware and Montgomery counties in Pennsylvania. Programs include early childhood, education, vocational and supported employment, structured day programs, rehabilitation, community living, behavioral treatment, as well as in-home and outpatient services.