

The
**Matthew C. Graziadei
Achievement
Award**



Presented annually by the
**Exceptional Children's
Assistance Center**
to an
**Outstanding High School
Senior with a Disability**

The Matthew C. Graziadei Achievement Award

The Matthew C. Graziadei Achievement Award is presented annually to a high school senior with a disability who best exemplifies the characteristics of Matthew Graziadei. Matt was a remarkable young man who died in January 1998 at age 26.

Matthew Carmen Graziadei graduated from Myers Park High School in Charlotte, North Carolina and was elected to Who's Who in American High School Students. Matt was a student intern at the Charlotte Mint Museum and served as a Goodwill Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association both locally and statewide.

He achieved President's Honors at Central Piedmont Community College and served in Washington, DC with the US Surgeon General's Council on Families and Disabilities. Matt had started his own business and was a contractor in facilities, engineering and computer services.

When asked to define the characteristics that made Matt unique, his family and friends defined the attributes listed below. These attributes will be the criteria for selecting the winner of this award.

DETERMINATION	- reaching above one's imagination
PERSEVERANCE	- remaining steadfast against all odds
PERSISTENCE	- starting from scratch and striving until successful
DEDICATION	- maintaining solid effort and achievement
CONFIDENCE	- overcoming obstacles through internal courage
MOTIVATION	- seeing life as a series of opportunities, not obstacles
FORTITUDE	- keeping going after others have stopped
ACCOMPLISHMENT	- succeeding with on-going new visions
EXCELLENCE	- showing exemplary performance
QUALITY	- leaving a signature/unique mark of excellence

Students with disabilities who are completing their last year of high school are eligible to be nominated for this award and nominations can be made by either high school personnel or a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor. The Matthew C. Graziadei Achievement Award includes a \$1,000 scholarship to be used for any post high school learning experience/training or for equipment/technology needed for employment. The award will be presented during the student's high school awards ceremony.

Matthew C. Graziadei Achievement Award

Application Packet

(1) Student Information Form

Completed and signed by the person nominating the student.

(2) Nomination Narrative

A one page narrative describing the student and his or her accomplishments in relationship to the attributes described on the first page of this application.

(3) Letters of Recommendation

Three letters of recommendation must be included in the application packet.

Recommendation letters must include:

- (a) an administrator from the high school, either principal or assistant principal;
- (b) a teacher other than the person nominating the student;
- (c) a community member which could include another student, employer, minister, etc.

One copy of the completed application packet must be received in the ECAC office by Monday, March 22, 2010.

Please mail the packet to:

Matthew C. Graziadei Award
ECAC
907 Barra Row, Suites 102/103
Davidson, NC 28036

You can access our Matthew C. Graziadei Achievement Award Application Packet on ECAC's website <http://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/> You will find the link on the first page in the "What's New" topic area.

Matthew C. Graziadei Achievement Award

Student Information Form

(Please Print or Type)

Student's Name _____

Age _____ Male _____ Female _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Parents Name _____

Address (if different from student)

Telephone Number (_____) _____

High School _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number (_____) _____

School Principal _____

School Contact _____

Date of Awards Ceremony _____

Student's Exceptionality _____

The student is receiving a:

- Diploma
- Occupational Diploma
- Certificate

Student spends the majority of the school day in a:

- regular classroom
- separate building
- resource classroom
- separate classroom
- other

Extra Curricular Activities:

Volunteer Activities:

Future Plans:

Additional Comments:

Person Nominating _____

Address _____

City _____

Telephone Number (____) _____

Email Address _____

Relationship to Student _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Matthew C. Graziadei Achievement Award

Nomination Narrative

Attach this cover sheet to a one page narrative describing the student and his or her accomplishments in relationship to the attributes described on the cover page of this application.

Student's Name _____

Matthew C. Graziadei Achievement Award

Letters of Recommendation

Three letters of recommendation must be attached including letters from:

- (a) an Administrator from the high school, either Principal or Assistant Principal;
- (b) a Teacher other than person nominating the student;
- (c) a Community Member which could include another student, employer, minister, etc.

Student's Name _____

Matthew C. Graziadei Achievement Award

Check List

The student's application must include the following to be considered for the Matthew C. Graziadei Achievement Award:

- Student Information Form** signed by the person nominating the student.
- Nomination Narrative** describing the student and his or her accomplishments in relationship to the attributes described on the cover page of the application.
- Letter of Recommendation** from a high school administrator. (i.e. principal or assistant principal)
- Letter of Recommendation** from a teacher, or vocational rehabilitation counselor. (other than the person nominating)
- Letter of Recommendation** from a community member. (i.e. student, employee, minister, etc.)

The application packet must be received by Monday March 22, 2010.

- The application packet may be mailed to:
Matthew C. Graziadei Award
ECAC
907 Barra Row, Suites 102/103
Davidson, NC 28036
- Sent electronically to MCGaward@ecacmail.org. Note: pages which require signatures must be scanned or PDF'd to include the signature on the form.
- Or Faxed to ECAC at **704-892-5028**.

The Matthew C. Graziadei Award will be presented at the Awards Ceremony of the winning student.

Questions regarding this application process may be directed to ECAC – 1-800-962-6817; Susan Meade ext. 15 or Susan Suda ext. 34.