

Peg Szczurek, M.Ed.

2019 VOICE for Children Distinguished Career Award

Margaret (Peg) Szczurek recently retired as the Associate Director of DVAEYC, now First Up: Champions for Early Education. Peg oversaw the quality improvement work at First Up and was instrumental in designing their model for technical assistance to child care programs. She is well known throughout the Philadelphia region as a master instructor. She continues to coach directors and mentor teachers in her retirement. Peg also works with other non-profit organizations to meet their professional development needs including the Free Library of Philadelphia and Smith Playground.

Peg was an adjunct professor for the Community College of Philadelphia and enjoyed the diverse student population very much. Peg served on the national advisory board at The Franklin Institute on LEAP into Science and she has served as a consultant for The Franklin Institute on Young Children and Science. She also has been a PQAS reviewer for PA.

Peg has deep content expertise in child development, developmentally appropriate practice, emerging literacy, and nature-based play. Peg served as the director of Children's Village at Doylestown Hospital, a NAEYC accredited program that served 300 children in Bucks County.

In her early career she taught for the School District of Philadelphia and was the Director of Programs and Camping for the Girl Scouts of Southeastern PA. Her love of nature is due to her life time membership in GSUSA.

Peg was previously recognized in 1999 by Women's Way of Philadelphia with the Make It Happen Award for her commitment to improving the lives of girls and women through education and advocacy. In 2016 she received the Free Library of Philadelphia and Drexel University Children's Literature Citation for promoting early childhood literacy in classrooms and libraries across the City of Philadelphia.