

VOICE for Children

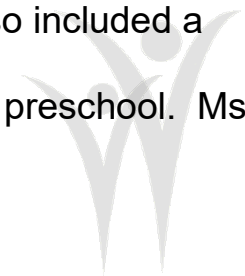
2023 VOICE for Children

Distinguished Career Award Recipient

Rebecca Lentz Gorton

Administrator Emerita, Northampton Community College

Rebecca Gorton began her career in education teaching pre-k to grade five in private and public schools. She then became a Program/Education Director of Head Start in the Lehigh Valley followed by a teaching faculty position in the Early Childhood Department at Northampton Community College. Ms. Gorton became the Director of the Early Childhood Department, a position she held from 1999 to 2011. The Department included two campuses, offering both on-site and on-line courses, leading to Associate Degrees, and/or Certificates in Infant Toddler, School Age, and Family Child Care, Leadership for Director's Certificates and a model program for *Building Inclusive Child Care*. Each campus also included a laboratory/demonstration school for children, infant through preschool. Ms.



Gorton was responsible for establishing a business-education partnership with Crayola which led to the development of *Art as a Way of Learning* professional development program, and partnership with Bright Horizons online Child Development Associate programs. Northampton Community College's Early Childhood Program was in the first cohort of NAEYC Associate Degree Accreditations.

She was a founding member of Lehigh and Northampton AEYC; and PennAEYC, serving as the initial Vice-President for Professional Development. She served as an Advisory Committee Member for PA - T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education And Compensation Helps) Early Childhood®, the Early Childhood State-wide Committee/Task Force for PA Pathways, the PA Key Professional Development Committee, the Director's Credential and the Career Lattice. She was a consultant to the PA Key/PASSHE Articulation Project.

Ms. Gorton served as Commissioner, Middle States Association for Elementary School Accreditation, affording her opportunities to accredit programs in China, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and to assist in the development of a Middle States Early Childhood Accreditation System.



Nationally, she served as President and Secretary of ACCESS (Associate Degree Early Childhood Educators). In this role she participated in the development of Associate Degree Accreditation Standards, and subsequently served as an NAEYC Commissioner for Associate Degree Accreditation (now NAEYC Higher Education Accreditation System). She has presented at numerous NAEYC conferences as well as national conferences for T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®, Head Start, Tech Prep, and NACTE (National Association of Community Colleges) on topics related to articulation, the arts, and curriculum.

