

*VOICE for Children*

*2023 VOICE for Children*

*Distinguished Career Award Recipient*

**Dr. Rae Ann Hirsh**

**Program Director, Early Childhood Education Department, Carlow University**

Dr. Rae Ann Hirsh was a dedicated wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend to many. Rae was a gardener, flutist, and baker and would describe herself as a patient gardener; one who understood the individuality of each seed and their needs, giving them room to grow.

Rae was an educator at Carlow University for 12 years, where she published a book about early childhood education in 2004 and worked as a professor to help influence and guide new teachers. There are now hundreds of passionate teachers using her teaching methods and changing the lives of children through kindness and patience. Rae was involved in



many initiatives over the years with a variety of community organizations.

She loved sharing her knowledge of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) related activities and the latest technologies were always embedded in her coursework. Rae's scholarly work has been published in many different periodicals and has been presented at conferences all over the United States. She served on a variety of Boards of organizations in both the education area, as well as technology.

Rae's most recent accomplishment at Carlow University was as 'architect' of Pennsylvania's first four-year apprenticeship program, named in her memory, "The Dr. Rae Ann Hirsh Apprenticeship Hub for Early Childhood Education." Rae, along with her apprenticeship team, were successful in securing the largest endowment in Carlow's history for the establishment of the apprenticeship hub in perpetuity, where the program continues to run successfully with the help of Rae's colleagues.

Rae's profound accomplishments are a result of her passion for early childhood. That passion, coupled with the remarkable generosity





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of state and local funders, has seen her vision come to fruition. In loving memory of Rae, we honor her legacy through the work of “The Dr. Rae Ann Hirsh Apprenticeship Hub for Early Childhood Education,” where we will continue to reflect Rae’s lifelong career of dedicated service to early childhood and her extraordinary commitment to children and families.

