

2020 VISTA Millennial Superstars: Rebecca Eberly

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By Mark Hostutler

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Pittsburgh native Rebecca Eberly is the Principal at Fern Hill Elementary School in the West Chester Area School District.

Eberly earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Penn State, a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Gwynedd Mercy University, and an Ed.D. in Policy, Planning, and Administration from West Chester University. She credits a number of people as having an impact on her career.



"I am proud to say that my career's success is a reflection of all of the leaders and colleagues that I have had the pleasure to learn from, beginning with grade school, through college professors, and to my workplace mentors," said Eberly, who began working when she was 14 at the Sarah Heinz House, a Boys and Girls Club in Pittsburgh. "Each mentor along the way has expanded my thinking or offered a different perspective that has helped me to refine my vision for quality education."



Eberly's proudest professional achievement occurred when she was teaching fourth grade.

"I was working in a school that differentiated learning based on academic ability," she said. "While working with the lowest group in English/Language Arts, all students were at least two years below grade level, specifically reading at the second-grade level or lower.



As a novice teacher, I collaborated and worked in tandem with the school's reading specialist to co-plan and co-facilitate lessons that were grounded in best practice. By the end of that school year, nearly all students in our reading group finished the year on a fifth-grade reading level, hurdling over two years of growth in a matter of months. This solidified within me the value of collaboration early in my career."

With three young children, Eberly's favorite Chester County restaurant/nightspot is the Movie Tavern in Exton.

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