

2022 Partner in Excellence

Dr. Trudy A. Atkins



Dr. Trudy A. Atkins spent fourteen years on the administrative team in the East Brunswick Public Schools. She began as an Assistant Principal at East Brunswick High School, went on to the post where she served the longest, from 2009 to 2018, as the K-12 Science Supervisor, then joined the Central Office Team in 2018 as the Director of Community Outreach and Academic Support. Trudy's final position was as the Director of Professional Learning, Evaluation and Assessment where she worked with Academics Tech Specialist, Ms. Jennifer Carter and her fellow Class of 2007 VPs, Dr. Joyce Boley and Mrs. Nicole Tibbetts. Just after being named a Class of 2022 Partner in Excellence Award honoree in the Spring of 2021, Trudy accepted the Superintendency in the Bordentown Regional School District in Burlington County, New Jersey. Trudy's educational career began in the East Windsor Regional School District teaching Biology, Honors Anatomy and Physiology, and Advanced Placement Biology as well as serving as the Science Department Chairperson from 2000-2007.

Trudy is a Yardville, New Jersey native, and a 1987 and 2002 West Chester University of Pennsylvania graduate with a Bachelor's in Biology Education and a Master's in Molecular Biology respectively. During her time in East Brunswick she went on to complete an Education Specialist Degree in Science Education from Rutgers University and, most recently, a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Rider University in 2020. Trudy is thankful to Dr. Victor Valeski, Dr. Louis Figueroa, Mr. Bernardo Giuliana, Mr. Paul Natalicchio, the East Brunswick Board of Education and her fellow administrators for their support as she completed her dissertation study in school emergency preparedness during the Fall of 2019.

Trudy is grateful for, and humbled by, the recognition she is receiving from the East Brunswick Education Foundation. Throughout her time in EB, Trudy took advantage of the grant opportunities offered by the EBEF to fund specialized equipment purchases for the Waksman Program at EBHS and technology to support various aspects of Science programming at both the elementary and secondary levels. She recognizes and appreciates the opportunities the EBEF made possible for her students. Trudy's most proud EBEF moment came in 2013 when she, Deb Mangino and many colleagues teamed up to "Dance with the EB Stars" to a tune from Broadway's Hairspray. Although she did not lift anyone in the air like her "Work Brother" Mike Gaskell, Trudy did get EBEF President, Jack Levitt, to appear in Drag as part of her performance!

No single person accomplishes anything without the love and support of their family. Trudy met the love of her life, Alba M. Lugo, in EB - she knew it was "Love at First Sight" - but it took seven years for Alba to leave EB so Trudy could finally tell the world. Alba and Trudy do their best at parenting two adult sons and are the proud Aunt and Titi of twin nephews. Between them they also have thousands of students of whom to be proud. Their dog, Jack Daniels, a red and white Border Collie rescue, was a product of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Finally, Trudy asks all of the educators present this evening to realize that over the last two years our nation has seen tragedy and triumph and our students witnessed history making events through their very own eyes. Further, Trudy wants to be sure that as educators, we assist students in understanding all that is going on around them as we build their agency as young people to grow towards the changemakers they are destined to become. The nation's students are our future, and educators must do everything in their power to support academic, artistic, and athletic growth and development so students can move with confidence into the next phase of their lives. Trudy is sure that the EBEF will support this mission tirelessly, and she thanks you for helping to fund this endeavor by being here this evening.

