

2022 Partner in Excellence

Lisa Citron



During the twenty-eight years Lisa Citron proudly worked in the East Brunswick Public School System, she wore many hats. However, no matter what position Lisa held, one constant was the respect and value for the East Brunswick Education Foundation.

Lisa's first relationship with the EBEF was as a parent while raising her children, Ryan (2004) and Samantha (2008). She was impressed by the incredibly creative ways their teachers made learning come alive; a second-grade sleepover, a school garden brought to life by young learners, a deeply moving and memorable Holocaust program, an opportunity to learn the workings of our government, and at its core, the constitution, all of which were supported by funds provided by the EBEF.

Inspired as both a parent and East Brunswick Teacher, Lisa became directly involved with the EBEF. She enthusiastically served as a member of the foundation, working alongside some of the most selfless and tireless educational heroes focused on finding ways to raise money for educational grants. Lisa was proud to see how the EBEF raised money while bringing a community together to watch "East Brunswick Stars Dance," as well as East Brunswick School Stars modeling the latest clothes for the "EBEF Fashion Show." Whether it was the simpler methods of assigning a student as "Principal for a Day" or selling "Apples for Education," every penny creatively raised by the EBEF had one singular purpose, giving back to the children in our community. Lisa was proud to be actively involved with the EBEF when it achieved its' goal of giving away \$1,000,000 in grant money. The accomplishment of this goal directly connects with East Brunswick's goal to achieve "Excellence in the Arts, Athletics, and Academics."

The creative, educational opportunities made possible by the EBEF were out there for the taking. As an East Brunswick teacher, as an Instructional Coach, at Irwin Elementary School and Memorial Elementary School, and as a Special Education Supervisor, Lisa collaborated with many of her colleagues on numerous grants that supported and elevated classroom instruction. The EBEF awarded several grants which focused on creating environments more conducive for learning. "Keys to Success" and "Maximizing Little Hands" were grants written to support our youngest learners using technology. "Kindergarten Tabletops," "Snuggle into Learning," "All is Possible with Pockets," and "Bouncing Our Way to Success" all grants written to create comfortable, organized, and supportive classrooms. All students benefit from differentiated instruction, so "Headphone Heroes" and "A Table to Learn With" met individual student needs beautifully. One example of this was the reading and math challenges addressed through "Engage-Enjoy-Succeed with Graphic Novels," "Reading with Different Books," and "Problem Solving Skills Live." Each of these awarded EBEF Grants supported the learning of East Brunswick children, every one of these grants took an educator's vision and made it come to life.

Lisa, newly retired, looks forward with great thankfulness and excitement. She is excited to spend more time with her family, husband Barry, son Ryan, his husband Terry and their daughter Ricky Kole, daughter Samantha and new husband Joe, and her 92 years young, spunky mom, Angela. Lisa, newly retired, also reflects on a diverse career in East Brunswick she is incredibly proud of, the hard-working colleagues she met along the way, the friends who will last a lifetime, and her involvement in the East Brunswick Education Foundation, which stands for what is most important in our world, the education of our children.

