

CARIN GUARASCI

Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa

Carin Guarasci is an educator's educator.

This Flatbush, Brooklyn native has made her own education a lifelong project, starting with her bachelor's degree from Fordham University and continuing through three separate master's programs, one from Indiana University and two from St. Lawrence University, in educational foundations, guidance counseling, and administration, supervision and curriculum.

Carin Guarasci knows from practice the impact an educator makes, starting with her very first position, teaching 10 boys with severe discipline problems in West Long Branch, N.J., followed by 13 years as a remedial reading teacher in Ogdensburg, N.Y. She first ventured into educational leadership as the principal of a K-12 school in rural St. Regis Falls, N.Y., population 464. This prepared her to provide deeper support to more teachers at a broader level, working for more than a decade as a supervisor and trainer/consultant for two regional BOCES — Boards of Cooperative Educational Services — in Watertown and in Putnam/Northern Westchester, N.Y. Later, she worked as the regional literacy coordinator for a private company providing literacy programs for K-3 classrooms in the New York City public schools.

The apex of Carin Guarasci's career, so far, are two projects that have been inextricably intertwined in her life: her pursuit of a doctorate in education from Columbia University's Teachers College, and her creation of a mentoring and professional development program for those entering the teaching profession, called New Educators at Wagner. Knowing that nearly half of all new teachers leave the field in their first 5 years on the job, Carin created the N.E.W. program to focus the attention of new teachers on well-researched, evidence-based solutions to the problems they encountered in the classroom. Since N.E.W. was established in 2009, the percentage of its graduates leaving the teaching profession has been reduced to around 10 percent. Her doctoral research, which focused on the N.E.W. program's outcomes, earned her an Ed.D. diploma in 2017.

Dr. Guarasci has contributed educational leadership on Staten Island as a member of the boards of the Notre Dame Academy and the New World Prep Charter School. She has been given many community honors since moving here in 1997, including the Les Trautmann Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution to the People of Staten Island and awards from the Seamen's Society for Children, Project Hospitality and the Chai Society of Wagner College. In 2014, the New York State Senate named Carin Guarasci a Woman of Distinction, and in 2016 the Greater New York Region of the National Organization of Italian American Women honored her as one of three outstanding Wise Women who have excelled in their respective professional fields.

On top of everything else, Dr. Carin Guarasci has been a tireless supporter of Wagner College, working with her husband to raise needed funds and establishing deep, enduring relationships with the college's alumni and friends. The growth in Wagner's endowment since 2002, from \$4 million to \$92 million, could not have been achieved without her steadfast support.

As Carin Guarasci prepares to leave her beloved Grymes Hill and continue her career of superior service, scholarship and leadership, it is our privilege and pleasure to recognize her with the degree of doctor of humane letters, *honoris causa*.