



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rebecca Kantor-Martin

The Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University expresses its sorrow regarding the death on April 22, 2021, of Rebecca Kantor-Martin, Professor Emerita in the College of Education and Human Ecology. She was 66.

Professor Kantor-Martin earned an MEd in special education and an EdD from Boston University. In 1983, she joined Ohio State in what was then the College of Human Ecology as an assistant professor of family relations and human development, and lead teacher in the A. Sophie Rogers Laboratory for Child and Family Studies. She became director of the laboratory in 1987 and earned tenure in 1989. In 1997, she transitioned to associate professor in what was then the College of Education, in its School of Teaching and Learning, and reached full professorship in 1999. At that time, she also became the faculty lead for the licensure program in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. In 2006, she became chair of what was then the School of Teaching and Learning. Her research interests included language, literacy and social processes in early childhood classrooms.

Professor Kantor-Martin was a force in early childhood education at the university, in Ohio and internationally. The Ohio Department of Education called on her regularly to advise for its early childhood initiatives. For instance, in the early 1990s, she was a member of the department's Early Childhood Task Force for Restructuring Teacher License and Program Standards. From 1998 to 2001, she was a program reviewer for new early childhood licensure portfolios submitted by institutions around Ohio for approval. For her service, by 1998, Professor Kantor-Martin had received the Ohio Department of Education's Friends of the Early Childhood Division Award twice. In 2008, she again was honored, this time with the department's prestigious Irene Bandy-Hedden Early Childhood Education Leadership Award.

From early in her career, Professor Kantor-Martin advocated for the Reggio Emilia approach, a student-centered educational philosophy and pedagogy for preschool and primary education named for the Italian city where it originated. Twice, she was an invited delegate to Reggio symposia in Italy and Switzerland. In 2003, she went to the World Summit on Childhood and Study Tour in Italy, and she subsequently guided student study tours of early childhood education in Reggio Emilia in three different years. She was well-known by many organizations, for instance, serving Columbus' Action for Children as a task force member to create Guidelines for Infant-Toddler Child Care. She was active with the Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children, eventually serving as president. She published and presented widely, including at the annual conference of the American Education Research Association.

Her work on grant projects tallied in the millions of dollars. She was a co-principal investigator with the Head Start Quality Enhancement Network, begun in 1997 with \$2.5 million in state and federal funds for each of five years. In 1999, she was a co-principal investigator for the college's project, Technology Helping Educators and Communities of Learners: Alternative Career Pathways for Pre-K to Grade Three Teachers, a three-year, \$2.06 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. She was also co-principal investigator of the U.S. Department of Education-funded grant ASPIRE: Teacher Quality Partnership Transition to Teaching Project for \$12.9 million from 2009-2011. Professor Kantor-Martin retired from Ohio State in 2011 and proceeded to serve as professor and dean of the School of Education and Human Development at the University of Colorado Denver.

On behalf of the entire university community, the Board of Trustees expresses to the family and loved ones of Professor Rebecca Kantor-Martin its deepest sympathy and compassion for their loss. It is directed that this resolution be inscribed upon the minutes of the Board of Trustees and that a copy be tendered to her family as an expression of the board's heartfelt sympathy and appreciation.

CERTIFIED

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate excerpt from the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting held August 19, 2021.


Jessica A. Eveland
Secretary