

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Press Release

~~~~~**IMPORTANT**~~~~~

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**FVTA Director Honored for Inspiring Aspiring Teachers**

FARMINGTON, CT—The Farmington Valley Transitional Academy (FVTA) Program Supervisor Emily Barrett has been awarded the School University Partnership Advisory Board Recognition Award, which recognizes leaders in the field whose collaboration and support informs and promotes best practice in teacher preparation.

The FVTA serves students with disabilities, ages 18–21. Established in 2000, the FVTA is located on the main campus of the University of Hartford and is a collaborative partnership between Simsbury Public Schools, Farmington Public Schools, and the University of Hartford. The FVTA prepares students with disabilities for transition,” to maximize their potential for independence in employment, community and activities of daily living, to foster self-advocacy skills and to facilitate linkages with necessary adult service supports upon transition.”

Barrett, who is in her fifth year with the FVTA and serving her second year as the director of the program, believes that this partnership gives aspiring teachers “a wonderful experience working with people of disabilities” and that there are many benefits for the students, including the opportunity “to interact with their same-age peers.”

University of Hartford’s Department of Education Chair and Director of Special Education Sheetal Sood explained that the award “recognizes our partners who have been instrumental in ensuring that our students received high impact educational practices in their education courses.”

Sood added, “Emily was nominated for the award because FVTA is one of the best School University Partners that we have. This would not have been possible without Emily’s support. Without her support we would not be able to provide our students with meaningful experiences in the field starting in their very first semester.”

Emily Barrett received her award at the Teacher Education Awards Ceremony on May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Auerbach Auditorium on the University of Hartford campus.

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