



Vita Education Services Announces New Board Leadership

Vita Education Services, Bucks County's leading provider of adult education services, proudly announces the election of Ellen Happ, Principal of Ellen Happ Architect, as the President of its Board of Directors. Happ will lead an exceptional team of dedicated individuals committed to furthering Vita's mission of empowering adults through education.

of Masters of Accounting Program at Villanova University

- Past President: Catherine McElroy, Retired, Associate Provost, Bucks County Community College

Ellen Happ's journey with Vita began as a volunteer tutor, where she witnessed firsthand the determination of adult

Reflecting on Vita's mission, newly elected officers shared their commitment to empowering individuals to achieve financial self-sustainability and personal success. Kadri emphasized the importance of Vita's support in unlocking opportunities for economic growth, while Katz highlighted the organization's role in fostering success for all individuals, regardless of background or circumstance, adding "Everyone deserves the chance to be successful, as they define it, and Vita's mission is to ensure that folks have the basic skills to achieve their goals."

Blanco emphasized that "Vita serves a vital need in the community—using the transformative power of education to help people improve their lives and support themselves and their families." Reflecting the belief of all Vita's board members, Altamuro affirmed, "Education is a powerful tool for change."

Vita Education Services extends its gratitude to outgoing board members Linda Barker, Mark Estep, and John Walko. Anderson shared, "Their many contributions, for many years, have been instrumental in advancing our mission and vision."

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Joining Ellen Happ on Vita's leadership team are distinguished professionals, each bringing a wealth of experience and passion for Vita's mission. The newly elected officers include:

- 1st Vice President: M. William Kadri, Vice President/Regional Manager at C&N Bank
- 2nd Vice President: Maxine Katz, Retired Global Human Resources Executive
- Secretary: Christina Blanco, Account Specialist Supervisor at Tyndale FRC
- Treasurer: Jennifer L. Altamuro, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Faculty Director

learners striving to improve their lives through education. "I serve on Vita's Board of Directors to ensure that Vita's students continue to have the support they need from the wider community," noted Happ.

Mercedes Padrino Anderson, Vita's Executive Director, expressed confidence in Ellen Happ's leadership, citing her exemplary work in fund-raising and community engagement. "Ellen's vision and dedication will be invaluable as we help our neighbors develop needed skills to succeed in today's working world," said Anderson.

About Vita Education Services

Vita Education Services is the lead literacy agency in Bucks County and the largest provider of education programs in the Bucks County Correctional Facilities. Since 1971, Vita has provided quality educational programs that help individuals gain skills that enhance their ability to deal with real-life situations, meet personal goals, and become more self-determining and self-sufficient. Vita serves diverse populations, with cultural sensitivity, encouraging personal growth and life-long learning. Whether teaching basic literacy, family literacy, English as a Second Language or other foundational skills, cognitive behavioral skills, or employment readiness skills, Vita is focused on helping individuals become productive, self-sufficient, contributing members of the community. For information about Vita's programs, paid teacher and volunteer tutor opportunities, or making a financial donation, visit vitaeducation.org.



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