

Girl Scouts of Eastern PA

Take the Lead

Dr. Ceil Connelly-Weida Bio



Dr. Connelly-Weida's mentorship and support of young women began at home as the oldest of ten children, eight of whom are women. As a Girl Scout in New York State, she hiked the Appalachian Trail, later attending local summer Girl Scout camps in Pennsylvania. At the time, the Girl Scouts was one of the few organized activities available for young women. These activities were foundational in developing her pragmatic approach to life.

She was in the first class of women accepted at DeSales University, completing a B.S. in Accounting and M.Ed. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. She went on to attend Capella University, where she received her Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership.

Ceil's ability to synthesize people is demonstrated by bringing people with widely different views to consensus, translating that consensus into results thereby transforming individuals into a highly productive team. In addition, she is able to create strategic plans that can guide individuals and groups, enabling them to accomplish their goals. One of Ceil's greatest gifts is her ability to separate true priorities from other important issues.

At Lehigh Carbon Community College, Dr. Connelly-Weida developed short-term job training programs, which provided the preparation needed by under- and un-employed individuals to enter the workforce, majority of the program participants are women.

As Dean of Business, Education, Legal and Social Services at Lehigh Carbon Community College, Dr. Connelly-Weida is responsible for programs that constitute over 25% of the College's overall enrollment. She also oversees the Business Enterprise Center, which fosters entrepreneurship, the Early Learning Center Lab School, a NAEYC accredited program, which has received four Keystone stars (the maximum that can be awarded), the Pre-K Counts program, which supports at-risk children 3-5 years old, and supervises over 50 full-time, part-time, and adjunct faculty members. She facilitates and edits institutional strategic plans and accreditation reports.

To honor their Mother, her family created and sponsors the Women Divers' Hall of Fame (WDHOF)/Cecelia Connelly Memorial Scholarship in Underwater Archaeology. The yearly scholarships supports women in the non-traditional field of SCUBA diving, in particular underwater archaeology. Since the scholarship's inception in 2004, recipients spanned University of Texas A & M to Universidad Científica del Sur, Peru, to Flinders University, Australia and conducted research ranging from the study of ancient maritime exchange routes in the Indian Ocean and Red Sea and ancient ports of trade to the investigation of submerged prehistoric archaeological sites on the offshore continental shelf, Gulf of Mexico to Akko, Israel, and fieldwork on several mid-19th century Ottoman wrecks. Many of the recipients have gone on to complete their Ph.D.s and continue to contribute to the field: Flinders University, Department of Archaeology; curator at the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde, Denmark, and co-editor of the Journal of Maritime Archaeology; Associate State Archaeologist, California State Parks, and others.

Past and current community service: Vice-Chair of Employer Support Council (ESC), Co-host of ESC's Job Quest, Finance Committee Member & Bylaws Review Committee for Lehigh Charter School for the Performing Arts, Alliance for Building Communities, Middle States Commission on Higher Education Accreditation Liaison Officer and Peer Reviewer, Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living, Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance Board Member.