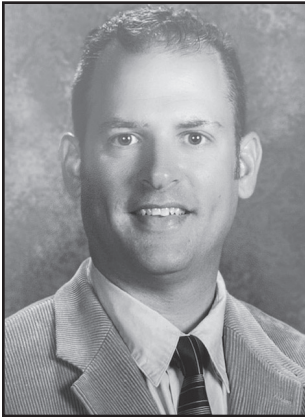


EF EDUCATOR RECOGNITION AWARDEE

We all have been affected in some way by one or more of the many teachers and administrators with whom we have come in contact during our school experience.

Twenty-two years ago, the EFAPA began honoring these dedicated educators, not necessarily alumni, for their positive contributions to the Elizabeth Forward schools and its students.

Joining this special group this year are two more individuals who have touched many lives during their service in the EF School District, **Eric Della Lucia** and **Sandra Hearn**.



ERIC DELLA LUCIA

Eric Della Lucia, known as “Dr. D” to his students, has taught at the Elizabeth Forward Middle School for 26 years. During his tenure, he has distinguished himself as a World Geography and Pennsylvania History teacher. He has also been a student council sponsor and been a part of the Apple Teacher Cohort, the APEX Teacher leadership team and the Schools to Watch Committee.

His tenure at Elizabeth Forward began in 1998 after receiving a master’s degree in education from Duquesne University. Della Lucia earned a Doctorate of Education degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 2010 with a focus in administrative and policy studies. As an undergraduate at the University of Pittsburgh, he double majored in economics and business with a minor in Italian.

Della Lucia is the son of Giovanni and Carlotta Della Lucia, both Italian immigrants who along with him have visited family numerous times in Europe. He credits these travel experiences for stoking a passion in teaching about cultures and geography around the world. Della Lucia is also passionate about local history and brings this passion to the classroom to share with his students. He is noted for planning field trips for the entire seventh grade to various locations throughout Western Pennsylvania.

A 1992 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, Della Lucia participated in interscholastic basketball and track. He has continued to share his experience and passion for these sports with middle school students as he is entering his 30th year of coaching basketball (26 at Elizabeth Forward) and is entering his 26th year as a track coach.

Della Lucia resides in Jefferson Hills with his wife, Rebecca and two children, 17-year-old Olivia and 13-year-old Luca. He credits his children with keeping him thinking younger than his age which is very helpful to a middle school teacher. Parenting Luca, who has recently completed seventh grade, the grade Dr. Della Lucia has taught throughout his career, has been especially helpful in maintaining a current perspective of the experience of both the current middle school child and the current middle school parent which helps him maintain positive relationships with both.

