



2020 Community Leader in Education Award



Deborah Curtis, Ph.D.

Dr. Curtis is the Executive Director of the Brendan Center for Leadership, Language, and Culture at Niagara University, where she works to build the bonds of community within the school's richly diverse population. Her goal is to help her students develop the knowledge and skills needed to build bridges across population divides to be better citizens of the world.

Deborah is a recognized leader in the field of hospitality management. Led by her faith, she expanded her work with Niagara University's International Students to include serving the refugee communities within Erie and Niagara Counties, finding employment opportunities and supporting business endeavors. She knows education goes beyond the walls of the classroom, and she works to instill in Niagara's students a commitment to serving others. Her volunteer efforts focus on building community, and Deborah has given her time to Explore Buffalo, the Empire State Games, the Special Olympics, and the Rotarians.

For her many efforts to prepare the students of today to be tomorrow's leaders, the NFJC proudly presents Deborah Curtis, Ph.D. with the 2020 Community Leader in Education Award.