

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Helga Hambrock Named LEA 2019 Leader in Outreach

Helga Hambrock is the 2019 LEA Leader in Outreach Award recipient. She is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pretoria (FELSISA).

Dr. Helga Brigitta Hambrock is a baptized and confirmed member of the confessional Lutheran Church in South Africa in fellowship with the LCMS in the USA. She was the first chair of the Lutheran Education Association in Southern Africa when the Association was founded in 2012 and is currently the vice chair of LEA-SA and the global representative for LEA- SA.

Helga grew up in a small German Lutheran school in the North of KwaZulu Natal in South Africa, called Lueneburg where she was baptized and confirmed. She completed her schooling in Piet Retief and furthered her Degree in Education at the University of Pretoria, where she received her BA degree in Geography, Languages and Biblical Studies. She also completed a Diploma in Higher Education which is equivalent to a Masters' in Education as well as an Honors degree in German. After 15 years of teaching and working with millennials she realized that instruction needed to adapt to the times and completed a Masters (2006) and later a Doctoral degree in Educational Technology (2016). In 2013 she married Prof. Richard Richter and after living in South Africa for three years, they returned to the USA. Helga also started working as Instructional Designer at Concordia University in Chicago.

Helga said, "My passion for mission outreach started many years back when I was a young girl with a role-model mother who was passionate about mission work in Africa. As a family we were involved in mission and youth camps where we would work on church buildings and teacher housing that were planned by and built with my father who was an architect, contractor and engineer in South Africa and Botswana. As young girls we would attend a Christian club in our town for (Non-Lutheran and Non-Christian) children that my mother started. My mother would invite preachers and mission workers to offer children camps in our town, and my sisters and I were part of every event. My parents also ordered Christian movies that would arrive by train and we would pick them up at the station and everyone would go to the town hall where my father would show the Christian movies to the entire community. My initial career choice was to become a missionary, but since my church was not promoting women as missionaries, I became a teacher with biblical studies and languages as my majors."

A colleague commented, "Helga is extremely passionate and supportive of Christian Education in South Africa/Africa and globally really. She has a strong vision what this outreach should entail educationally, socially and spiritually from a Christian perspective. Her dream is to build Christian Education from the bottom up – from home daycare to preschool and up through high school. She envisions a strong, Lutheran Christian education for young people, taught by strong, committed educators who have and embrace the Christian faith by sharing God's love and His grace."

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Edward Grube, Director of Publications and Communications
Lutheran Education Association, River Forest, Ill.
708.209.3453 Fax 708.209.3458 ed.grube@lea.org