

Violet (Violette) Eash graduated from Conemaugh Township with academic honors in 1961. After graduating from high school she received a B.S. degree in psychology from PITT, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation because of her disability. She then stayed on at PITT to receive a Master's degree in Special Education and Rehabilitation. For five years she was a Counselor at the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Center in Johnstown. She left there to pursue a Ph.D. at Penn State in Counselor Education, and upon completion of that degree entered the teaching profession in higher education. While finishing her degree, she taught a Counselor Education class at Penn State for 2 years, and was then offered a full time tenure track faculty position in the counseling program at Marshall University, located in Huntington, West Virginia. She was a professor there for 33 years, teaching mental health counseling, with a specialization in addictions. Since retirement, she teaches as a Professor Emerita at Marshall. Over that period of time, she was inducted in the National Hall of Fame for Persons with Disabilities, received an Outstanding West Virginian Award, and awards for teaching excellence from both Marshall University and the Penn State University Alumni Association. In addition to other community activities, she is currently board chairperson of Goodwill Industries of KYOWVA (KY, OH, and WV), headquartered in Huntington, WV.

Her favorite teacher while in high school was Mr. Curtis Grenninger, because he cared very much about each student, and even made algebra interesting.

Because of her severe physical disability from childhood arthritis, she had homebound education, and did not attend school until ninth grade. Her fondest memory of Conemaugh Township is that boy scouts riding the same bus, helped her daily on and off the bus, in all kinds of weather. Then upon arrival at the school, students from a volunteer "team" comprised of 4 to 6 football players rotated turns, meeting her at the bus to carry her up the stairs in the morning, and then back down in the afternoon. The same scouts then reversed the process after school, getting her safely on and off the bus again. The combined group of students -- scouts and football players--performed this same routine until her graduation. If one of them was absent, they made sure to find a replacement before she arrived at school. One of the scouts even earned his Eagle Award for helping her the entire four years.

