



USA Today Honoree's Teaching Success Rooted in Her Emmanuel College Education

Over the past few years, recognition for Emmanuel graduate Nancy Barile has come at all levels. Yet it wasn't until she was honored with the Distinguished Alumnae Award for her outstanding achievement in the field of education that she finally felt she had arrived.

"I always felt like I wanted to make my friends at Emmanuel College proud and being honored with that award was one of the greatest moments of my life," she said. "It felt like I had come full circle."

An alumna of Emmanuel's Graduate and Professional Programs, having earned a Master of Arts in Teaching, Barile also received her undergraduate degree from the College in 1990. Her efforts during her tenure as an English teacher at Revere High School and exceptional ability to motivate students has earned her praise that is worthy of few educators across the country; she was awarded one of six Bob Costas Grants for the Teaching of Writing from the College Board, a recognition that also earned her a selection to the National Commission on Writing.

USA Today named her as one of 20 accomplished teachers nationwide, which led to a certificate of merit from the Revere City Council and discussions with representatives of Oprah Winfrey regarding Barile's interest in expanding Winfrey's South African educational program. Additionally, her dedication to urban education and unique ability to keep students on track has led to featured articles in *The Boston Globe*, *The Lynn Daily Item* and *The Christian Science Monitor*.

For Barile, the acknowledgment of her teaching skills not only represents proof positive of her decision to shift professions a few years after graduating, but of the dynamic educational format of her alma mater—an institution that guided her in the direction of her professional goals.

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- ▶ E-mail: gpp@emmanuel.edu
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Despite feeling from an early age a strong desire to teach, after completing her undergraduate coursework, Barile pursued a career in law at the behest of her father, who felt it was a stronger field than education.

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“He wanted me to be a lawyer, so I got a job as a paralegal to get my feet wet,” she said. “But I hated every minute of it.”

A decision to return to school to follow her love of teaching initially felt overwhelming. Surrounding herself with trusting supporters in a familiar setting, however, proved crucial to easing her early reservations.

“I loved my time at Emmanuel [as an undergrad], I felt so at home there,” said Barile of her decision to return to her alma mater to pursue an advanced degree.

“Making a career shift at that age—I was 31 years old when I got out—I was terrified. But one of my professors, Dr. Rosemary Tobin, gave me a lot of great advice and guidance. She told me I would be a great teacher and to just do it. She gave me a lot of confidence.”

“Some people say that if you get your master’s degree before you actually teach, it doesn’t mean anything,” added Barile, who has also taught the Emmanuel College graduate evening course, Developing Teaching Strategies, Secondary Methods. “But I disagree. Emmanuel prepared me very well for walking into the classroom.”

Other than a brief stint with a training organization in Chelsea, MA, Barile, a National Board Certified Teacher, has dedicated her entire career as an educator to Revere High School. Now a lead teacher in the school’s English department, she has taught all levels of English, language arts and literature to a distinct population of students, as well as designed and implemented the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition courses.

Perhaps her best-known development has been her work with the school’s once defunct literary magazine, *Crossroads*, which she has fought vehemently to find funding for throughout her time in Revere. The grant from the College Board, as well as the \$2,500 she received as part of *USA Today*’s recognition are both being utilized to support the publication, which highlights students’ creative works.

Barile’s willingness to sacrifice for the sake of her students, eagerness to encourage and desire to see them succeed in life, all offer worthy explanations as to why she is so beloved in Revere and respected across the nation. In a working class city where the pursuit of a college education is considered by some far from given, her support and mentorship represent a guiding hand for those students striving to break through the glass ceiling, as well as those who have yet to realize their full potential.

For her friends here at Emmanuel, it is these compassionate qualities, in addition to her teaching accomplishments and Emmanuel College degrees, that make it easy to proudly recognize her as one of their own.

