

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

PHS graduate publishes tour de force

Aside from marriage and child birth, Beth Ann Kersten's most rewarding experience has been her recent publication, "The Essentials of Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory Manual," which she hopes will be adopted by colleges nationwide.

Written 100 percent from scratch, it took her four years of researching, writing, and working with two artists to complete the work — all as she continued her full-time job as tenured professor of natural sciences at State College of Florida (SCF) in Venice.

Commentary by
Thomas Hylton



Kersten, who was valedictorian of the Pottstown High School Class of 1989, earned a four-year scholarship given by Temple University to the most outstanding high school graduate of the year in suburban Philadelphia.

"I could not have gone to college without it," she said. Kersten continued at Temple as a teaching assistant, earning her master's and Ph.D. degrees (1993 and 1998) in biology tuition-free.

For three years, she was a researcher with a public health laboratory affiliated with Cornell University.

She returned to the classroom for three years at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, where she was teaching and continuing research.

But in 2004, when she married, she decided to focus solely on teaching and moved to Florida, where she has taught at SCF ever since.

SCF started as a community college but began granting four year degrees in addition to associate's degrees in 2009.

Kersten credited her publisher, bluedoor Top Hat, "for having faith in me and investing a lot of money into the project. In the beginning I didn't know if I could do it."

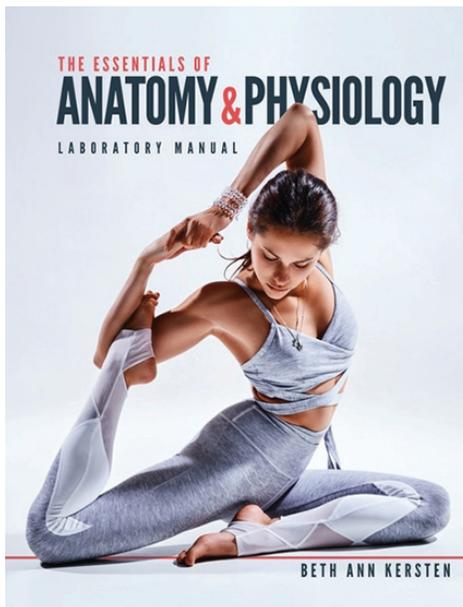
Kersten is a passionate advocate for community colleges and dual enrollment programs, which provide an affordable education and help students avoid the crushing debt many accumulate.



BETH ANN SIPPLE
Pottstown High
Valedictorian, 1989



BETH ANN KERSTEN
Ph.D., college text
author, professor



FOUR-YEAR LABOR OF LOVE — Beth Ann Kersten, who earned her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. from Temple University, recently completed her lavishly illustrated laboratory manual, "The Essentials of Anatomy and Physiology," to be used in college biology courses.

