

My name is Krista Vince Garland. My husband Dennis and I have lived with our three dogs in North Tonawanda for six years. We're originally from the Central Florida area, which is where Dennis and I both earned Ph.Ds. in Education. I am an associate professor at SUNY Buffalo State and I teach a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses. My research focuses on animal-assisted interventions in special education and students at risk for failure. Before that, I was a special education middle school teacher. It was honestly a most favorite time in my life. More recently, I've been working with my therapy dog, Stella in a variety of settings. We've been doing this for six years- she does amazing work with the SPCA Serving Erie County Paws for Love Therapy Dog Program.

I belong to a variety of service organizations and boards including the Advisory Board for the Salvation Army Tonawanda Corps., North Tonawanda Youth Board, Lead Organizer for the North Tonawanda Peacemakers, North Tonawanda Animal Control Committee, Board member for Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas, Community Health Alliance of North Tonawanda (CHANT), Niagara Organizing Alliance of Hope (NOAH).

I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve as a trustee for the North Tonawanda City School district (I was originally elected in 2018). Being able to serve as a school board trustee is my greatest opportunity to repay my mentors for their guidance and pay-forward efforts toward helping our kids and their families and I'm honored to serve.