



# UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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## CONNECTICUT

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## **UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH HONORS WEST HARTFORD STATE EDUCATOR WITH DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD**



**WEST HARTFORD, CONN.**– The University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, CT will honor Sarah Bachand-Barzee, Ph.D., '84, M'89, of West Hartford, CT with a Distinguished Alumni Award for leadership in state education services, at an Awards Dinner at the Marriott Hotel in Downtown Hartford on April 25.

Bachand-Barzee, who currently the Chief Talent for the Connecticut State Department of Education in Hartford, CT, received both her master's degree in Special Education ('89) and bachelor's degree in Special Education/Child Study ('84) at the University of Saint Joseph. She is being recognized with the Sr. Fay O'Brien Award for "promoting growth of the whole person in a caring environment; encouraging strong ethical values, personal integrity and a sense of responsibility to the needs of society"; and serves the mission of the University's School of Education.

"I am honored to be recognized as a distinguished alumna of USJ," said Bachand-Barzee. "My personal and professional goal has always been to serve my profession and to have a positive impact."

Prior to her current role, in which she leads the education reform efforts in Connecticut through the Education Preparation Advisory Council, Bachand-Barzee was assistant executive director for the Capital Region Education Council (CREC) , where she managed and implemented CREC's services to school districts, agencies and programs.

“ Her approach to achieving this embodies the Mercy value that relationships are based on openness, inclusivity and mutual respect,” said Kathleen Butler, Ph.D., dean of the School of Education at USJ - who nominated Bachand-Barzee. “She insures that all voices are heard and that all members of the education community know they are welcome at the table...As a result, decisions that will affect every public school child in Connecticut are reached through thoughtful consensus. Connecticut is fortunate to have a leader like Sarah Bachand-Barzee.”

Bachand-Barzee will be among six USJ alumni honored this year for their achievements in community service and professional careers. To attend the Distinguished Awards Dinner on April 25, contact the USJ Alumni Relations Office at [alumni@usj.edu](mailto:alumni@usj.edu) or 860.231.5323.

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*The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master's and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 22 majors and six pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at [www.usj.edu](http://www.usj.edu).*

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