

## **Michelle Harkins**

Michelle Harkins is the Executive Director of Early Connections. After receiving her undergraduate degree at Penn State Behrend and her Masters in Clinical Psychology at Edinboro University, she worked with adolescents and families to provide individual, group, and family therapy within a school setting. Michelle took time off from her career to raise her three children and volunteered at several agencies, schools, political races, and attended the Twins Mothers Club of Erie during her spare time. Nonpartisan advocacy for children and families has been an important part of Michelle's life. She began working at Early Connections in 2012 to assist in policy development, promotion, and administration of Erie's Future Fund.

In 2014, Michelle was promoted to the Associate Executive Director of Early Connections. During that time, she worked with the Family Support Program and helped to secure Early Connections' role as Intermediary for the Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program in the Northwest Region, until promoted to the Executive Director at the end of 2020. Michelle has been happily married to her husband, State Representative Patrick Harkins, for almost 30 years; they are the proud parents of three children; twin sons Patrick and Matthew, age 28; and daughter Barbara, 21.