

## SUSAN ELIZABETH GARBER

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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:** 40+ year career in special education and rehabilitation, with a 25 year focus on Assistive Technology (AT) to benefit individuals with disabilities and seniors with functional limitations

- After 17 years teaching children of many ages and with many disabling conditions (PGCPS) and two advanced degrees from Johns Hopkins University, became a program director for the JHU/MSDE Center for Technology in Human Disabilities (later renamed the Center for Technology in Education)
- During a 10 year tenure with JHU developed and acquired federal personnel preparation funding for a Masters Program in Technology for Special Education and Rehabilitation, one of the first in the nation
- During this period taught numerous graduate level classes, presented nationally and internationally
- Selected by Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America to represent Special Educators on an 11 member international committee to develop credentialing in the field of Assistive Technology
- Subsequently founded and directed for 12 years a non-profit organization, AT:LAST, Inc., headquartered in Howard County and serving Maryland, Tennessee, and Georgia with a cooperative buying service for AT devices and software and providing cutting edge local training opportunities for professionals and parents
  - Under a grant from the Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities' Maryland Technology Assistance Program, operated an AT Demonstration Center in Columbia and a satellite office in Garrett County
  - 2009 recipient of Howard County (HC) Commission on Disability Issues, Outstanding Service Provider Award

A career that necessitated critical diagnostic/analytic skills, creative problem solving, sensitivity to other's needs and emotions, good written and oral communication skills including the ability to express complex concepts in simple terms, critical listening, ability to acquire and manage budgets in excess of a million dollars, ability to advocate and negotiate, lead while a team player, facilitate group processes, develop long range plans and a vision for the future

**ASA RETIREE:** Actively involved in community and County affairs with special interest in preservation of the Patuxent River and surrounding parkland, maintaining historic sites, community engagement, and making Howard County a desirable place to live for Seniors, working parents, and grandchildren

### **VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:**

- Serve on DPZ Southeast Area Workgroup
- President/Board Chair of the Savage Community Association (but would step down when Planning Board term begins)
- Active member of Senior Council at North Laurel Community Center; serve as County Affairs Liaison
- Member of Savage Historical Society and the Carroll Baldwin Memorial Institute
- Served on Kittleman 2015 Transition Team evaluating the Departments of Planning and Zoning and of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits
- Served on committee to evaluate HC senior housing to establish "visitability" feature standards
- Served on HC interdepartmental committee to reduce criminal behavior in Savage Trail Park