

The Times of Trenton Archive
COPYRIGHT © The Times of Trenton 2007

Date: 2007/09/15 Saturday Page: B02 Section: PEOPLE Edition: FINAL
Size: 360 words

Children's museum to honor [TCNJ](#) head

R. Barbara Gitenstein, president of The College of New Jersey, will be honored by Kidsbridge Children's Museum at its first Humanitarian Awards Celebration Oct. 23 at Jasna Polana in Princeton Township. Gitenstein has lent support to the museum since it first arrived at [TCNJ](#) in early 2006, according to Kidsbridge Executive Director Lynn Azarchi.

"She has a real commitment and passion for our mission, which is diversity education and character education," said Azarchi.

Gitenstein is one of four honorees to receive the award.

In addition to providing a home for Kidsbridge, Gitenstein also has offered valuable advice. After her first visit to the museum, Gitenstein suggested that the museum feature an exhibit on the genocide in Darfur.

To build this exhibit, Kidsbridge partnered with [TCNJ's Bonner Center](#) for Civic and Community Engagement, as well as a First Seminar Program class. Now, the museum has launched curricula to teach middle-school and high-school students about the genocide in Darfur.

"This Darfur program is growing and it is all thanks to Dr. Gitenstein," said Azarchi.

Not only has Gitenstein embraced Kidsbridge by providing space on campus and contributing ideas, she also has encouraged a strong partnership between the museum and the college campus. At least 200 students, mainly in education, sociology, and psychology, have contributed to Kidsbridge by integrating it into coursework for different classes.

"This type of partnership between a non-profit organization and a campus community is not being done anywhere else in the country. It is unique and unprecedented," said Azarchi.

Kidsbridge is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the celebration of human diversity. It encourages students, families and educators of the greater Mercer County area to practice and uphold diversity and character education. Kidsbridge has a mini-museum learning [center](#) at [TCNJ](#) and is planning a new interactive children's museum to be built in Trenton.

For more information about the humanitarian awards and Kidsbridge, visit the Web site (www.kidsbridgemuseum.org) or call (609) 581-0239.

PHOTO CAPTION: R. Barbara Gitenstein

URL: Children's museum to honor TCNJ head