

Melissa Kiliper-Ernst

Inducted into the *Hall of Fame* in 2007



Melissa Kiliper-Ernst graduated from Washington High School in 1982, where she was Principal Clarinetist in the Washington band and orchestra for her three high school years. In addition, she was a four year All-State Musician-two years in the orchestra and two in the band.

While at Washington, Melissa was involved in many different musical activities. She played in the marching band, in the pit orchestra for the school plays, and the pep band for athletic performances. She was the principal clarinetist in the youth symphony and played with the City Band in the summer months. She received a National Merit Scholar Letter of Commendation and earned the Dollars for Scholars scholarship for band.

Although she didn't pursue a career in music, Melissa valued the education and arts experiences she received as a student in the Cedar Rapids School District. She received a degree in Finance from the University of Iowa and worked as a financial analyst for Rockwell Collins.

Melissa's focus is on community leadership. She is dedicated to volunteering with struggling students and to promoting the Arts in Education. She is Vice-President of the Cedar Rapids School District's Board of Directors. She serves on the Linn County Community Empowerment Board, the 15 in 5 Early Childhood Initiative Steering Committee, and the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art Board of Trustees. Melissa continues to be an active volunteer in the Cedar Rapids schools, and has received the PTA Founder's awards at Arthur Elementary and Franklin Middle School. She also received the Outstanding Building Volunteer Award at Arthur.

Melissa and her husband Dave have three children, Max, Kate, and Lucy. She looks forward to many more years of involvement with Washington Performing Arts and the Cedar Rapids Community School District.

