

Debra Harting personifies the third criteria for recognition and induction into the Columbia High School Alumni Hall of Fame, namely: 'To have shown outstanding service to a specific community.' Her unwavering dedication to and concern for the welfare of the youth of the East Greenbush School District is evidenced by her active leadership and membership in numerous community projects and organizations.

Debra Harting's immersion in her community began at the Red Mill School. From 1984 through 1991, she served at the school in a variety of volunteer positions, starting as Vice-President of the PTO in 1984-85 and concluding as its President from 1985 to 1991. Her outstanding efforts were rewarded in 1991, with her recognition as Red Mill Volunteer of the Year.

Debra was instrumental in organizing and leading a group of District residents to establish Advocates for Children's Education (ACE). The purpose of ACE was to advocate a pro-education philosophy which would create a positive learning environment leading to expanded student achievement. ACE was a powerful force in effecting a climate for stability during some difficult years. Debra's foresight and steadfastness in concert with other residents was instrumental in preserving the educational integrity of the School District.

Perhaps Ms. Harting's most enduring contribution toward the well-being of her community was as a member of the East Greenbush Board of Education from 1992-2000. She was instrumental in obtaining voter approval for school budgets, technology proposition, the building project and reorganization of our K-8 education program and the Columbia High School/Transportation Garage building projects. Mrs. Harting was a strong advocate for the educational needs of all children. She served with distinction as Board of Education Vice President for six years.

It is individuals like Debra Harting, supported by her husband Ken and her daughters Tenniel, Tiffany and Tabitha who through their willingness to give of themselves define the character and substance of a community.

Tonight, the East Greenbush School District proudly proclaims Debra Harting as a member of its Columbia High School Alumni Hall of Fame.