

Gerald "Gerry" Elliott, currently teaches Social Studies at Columbia High School. He has, in addition to his classroom responsibilities, been an assistant principal and athletic coach since his initial employment in 1976. In each of these capacities he has distinguished himself as an outstanding educator with an innate ability to motivate young people to achieve their greatest potential. In the classroom by the sheer force of his personality and energy he inspires students to participate and approach their optimum in academic achievement. His standards are high and he demands the same of his students. Mr. Elliott's other great "love" is athletics and his accomplishments in this realm are no less impressive than in the classroom. While at Columbia he has coached at various levels of football and has been the mainstay as coach of Indoor (Boys) and Outdoor Track. His skill as a teacher and motivator has served the youth of our school district extremely well. His efforts have consistently resulted in Columbia track teams being both competitive and respected by their opponents.

Gerry graduated from Columbia in 1967 where his successes as an academician and stellar athlete would be predictors of a brilliant future. He went on to achieve academic and athletic prominence at the University of Vermont where he graduated with honors in 1971. He later earned his Master's degree at State University at Albany attaining a 4.0 grade point average.

Mr. Elliott's prowess on the football field is attested to by the honors and awards which have been bestowed upon him. At the University of Vermont he was recognized as one of the New England Region's premier defensive linemen. He was selected three times on the All-American second team or honorable mention. As captain of the Catamounts (Vermont), he was the recipient of the Most Valuable Player Award and the prestigious Sunderland Trophy recognizing those qualities of character and leadership in a senior athlete which raise him/her above all others. The All-Yankee Conference and ECAC teams also selected Gerry for recognition for his feats on the gridiron. Following his triumphs at Vermont he put his athletic talents to work at the professional level where he once again distinguished himself briefly with the New England Patriots and more substantially with the Hartford team in the American Coast League where he was recognized as the leagues Most Valuable Player in 1971. Mr. Elliott made the critical decision to enter the teaching field in 1972. After a brief tenure at Hudson Valley Community College as football and wrestling coach he returned "home" to his alma mater to labor in the "fields of academe."

It is therefore with great pleasure that the Education Foundation welcomes Gerald Elliott into the Alumni Hall of Fame.