

ALUMNI Spotlight

Mindy Wilson '96



What was your college and career path?

I went to Adirondack Community College (now SUNY Adirondack) after graduation. After the first year, I took a full-time job and reduced my school schedule, eventually to one class per semester. After a few years of doing this, I realized that it was going to take me another decade to finish my undergrad unless I buckled down, so I enrolled full-time at The College of St Joseph and graduated with a 3.8 GPA a year and a half later, while working a full time job. I took the more challenging path to get my degree, and a more traditional college experience would certainly have been much more fun. But in the end, I've also learned that for me that it doesn't matter how it was accomplished, only that it was.

Today I am the Associate Vice President of Human Resources at SUNY Adirondack where I have been since 2014. I also serve as the college's affirmative action officer and Deputy Title IX Coordinator. I have responsibility for and oversight of a team of incredible HR professionals.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment?

I feel like I'm still chasing after what I will consider my greatest professional accomplishment. I've led impactful organizational

changes and strategic initiatives that have saved organizations in the millions of dollars. I've been on teams negotiating countless union contracts, have had really hard, impactful conversations with employees and I've helped put the right people in the right positions, that later recognized incredible personal and professional successes. However, I wouldn't call any of them my greatest professional accomplishment just yet. I have so much more ahead of me that I want to accomplish.

What do you like to do outside of work/school?

My husband Duane and I live in the Adirondacks and enjoy all it has to offer including hiking, snowmobiling, and boating on Lake George with our dog Oliver. We also love to travel and spend time with family and friends. We are pretty passionate about being involved and giving back to our amazing community and a lot of our free time is spent doing that as well.

I'm also a very proud Aunt; some might even say obsessed. I make every effort to not miss a milestone or moment and to be at every function I can.

What activities/sports did you participate in while at Fort Ann Central School?

I was a cheerleader and played field hockey for a few years and I was also involved in a few clubs.

What is your fondest memory of your time at Fort Ann Central School?

My friends in school and the fun things we did are what I remember most about FACS. I enjoyed Mr. Laboda's good spirited nature when I wouldn't stop talking in class, and it wasn't in French. And I remember working really hard with my friends to get Mr. Kazlo to crack a smile. I remember bundling up with friends to sit on cold metal bleachers and watch soccer games and bus rides to basketball games. While there are a lot of jokes to be made about small town living, Fort Ann is an incredible community and there is something special about growing up there.

Advice from Mindy

"A quote that has been a guiding force for me comes from Henry Ford; 'Whether you think you can, or you think you can't - you're right.' This applies to so many different facets of life ranging from mundane tasks to personal and professional dreams and goals. It's important to challenge yourself, believe in yourself and consistently push your boundaries and comfort zones, otherwise you're just stagnantly clicking through the years of your life. Too many people hold themselves back because they don't want to put the work in or don't believe they can. Whatever it is, go after it. And do it with an open and kind mind and heart."