



Leadership Lunches

Sponsored By: The Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership and the Board of Governance

Melissa Martin Chairperson Indiana Commission for Women

Melissa C. Martin currently serves as the Chair of the Indiana Commission for Women. She is a strong advocate for equality for women in all facets of society, and has served on the Indiana Commission for Women continuously through the appointment of four Indiana Governors: Governor Evan Bayh, Governor Frank O'Bannon, Governor Joe Kernan and Governor Mitch Daniels—the only commissioner in the history of the state to do so.

The Indiana Commission for Women is a bi-partisan advisory commission of fourteen appointed members from across the state. The mission of the ICW is to assess the needs of Indiana women and their families and to work strategically for systematic change in the way our state, our communities, and our political, economic and educational spheres interact with them.

Melissa is a founder of the Indiana Women's Political Network, and a founder of The Excellence in Public Service Series, a leadership development program to inspire, educate and train



women for elected and appointed governmental positions. As a consultant to governmental agencies, corporations and trade associations, Martin has created programs that drive public policy issues home—into the public conscience. She has facilitated a number of public/private partnerships and expanded the realm of corporate responsibility to include a focus on the impact of social responsibility on corporate profitability.

In high school Martin was always the only girl in her mechanical drawing class. She Graduated as an Art major from DePauw yet always desiring to be an Architect. In the 1960's her counselor discouraged her with an excuse

that she would never be allowed to design big buildings. She later on went to be a creative designer in an advertising agency and then became vice president of the company; the only women to hold that position at that time. Melissa wanting to have career and family, found that men in the late 60's and early 70's were not very flexible to accommodate a schedule for working mothers who wanted to spend time with their families.

Martin says, "one piece of advice I would like to share with you is this; you can be successful but you need to make serious choices."

Melissa shares what success means to her

- **Follow your heart....**know what you want to do
- **Find your passion....**and you'll never work a day in your life
- **Attitude....**happiness is not a right, it's an attitude
- **Any plan is better than No plan.....**you can control your destiny, plans change so be flexible
- **Service is to serve and honor.....**you are not prettier or smarter than someone else.

Every other Monday from noon to 1:00 pm the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership and the Board of Governance sponsor a Leadership Lunch and welcome community women in leadership onto campus to share their stories with the Saint Mary's community. It is an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to get connected with our women leaders and discuss a variety of issues and concerns. It also opens opportunities for student internships. Sarita Fritzer a senior Political Science major plays an important role in organizing this event.