

So you think you'll never end up in politics? They did too

KC Women Mayors dine with UMKC students

[Fadhel Kaboub](#) Mar . 22 . 2004

Five women Mayors from the Kansas City area shared their experience as local political leaders in their community with a group of 30 UMKC students over dinner last Monday Mar. 15, 2004. The dinner, in celebration of the Women's History Month, was sponsored by the UMKC Activity & Program Council (APC).

After a 30-year career as a pathology technology supervisor at a laboratory in the Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical center, Brenda Ferguson retired in 1994 and was elected Mayor of Tracy, MO, a small community north of the airport, in 2002.



**TRACY (MO) MAYOR BRENDA FERGUSON TELLING
STORIES OVER DINNER WITH UMKC STUDENTS.**

"I had no idea what I was doing when I got into this," said Mayor Ferguson, "but I'm learning". No matter what field you're studying, once you retire, you never know what your community will call upon you to do"

Mayor Peggy Dunn of Leawood, KS who is a UMKC graduate, got involved in local politics for the first time in 1993 when she was asked to run for a City Council seat. "It was the first time I got involved in a political campaign," she said. "This is now my third term as Mayor, and it has been an extremely educational experience," said Mayor Dunn.



LEAWOOD (KS) MAYOR PEGGY DUNN SPEAKS AT APC'S "DINNER WITH WOMEN MAYORS."



ROELAND PARK (KS) MAYOR LORI HIRONS (RIGHT) VISITING WITH MAYORS OF THE FUTURE.

Mayor Lori Hiron of Roeland Park, KS was first elected in 1993 and served two terms on the city council before running for Mayor in 2001. "We all got involved in local politics because we want to make a difference in the community that we live in," said Mayor Hiron. Living in a first-ring city with an aging infrastructure and mostly aging population, Mayor Hiron sees her city as a land of opportunities for redevelopment. "Some people see it as a glass half empty, I see it as glass half full, I see the potential for my community" she said.



MISSION (KS) MAYOR LAURA MCCONWELL.

Mayor Laura McConwell of Mission, KS is an attorney who earned her JD at UMKC. She was first elected to the City Council in April of 2000, and was elected Mayor in March of 2002. "It's been a very rewarding and gratifying experience," One of the most important things you learn in political life, is learning how to build up alliances. "You can't do it alone," she said.

Mayor Carol Marinovich of Unified Government, KS was a former Mayor of Kansas City, KS from 1995 to 1997. It is a wonderful feeling just to be able to make a difference in your community," said Mayor Marinovich. Her academic background was in education and she spent most of her

career working with the school district. "It takes people working together to make a difference," she said.



UNIFIED GOVERNMENT, KC (KS) MAYOR CAROL MARINOVICH.

All five Mayors shared the common characteristic of not having a background in political science or politics, and had never planned on being involved in politics. Today they are some of the most influential women in our community. Mayor Ferguson jokingly told a group of students before leaving "you never know, you might end up Mayor just like me."

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