

Susan (Colley) Martensen

City and state: Gig Harbor, WA

High school attended: Lakes High School

Graduation year: 1966

Colleges attended/degrees earned:

University of Oregon, Bachelor of Arts



Current career/job:

Marketing and Communications Manager,
Washington's Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET)
Program

Describe your current career/job:

I work on GET's Web site, publications and marketing campaigns through radio, print and television media.

Describe the path you took from high school graduation to where you are today:

I started in media advertising sales then fell in love with non-profits when I went to work for the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber. Advancing to marketing management and communications, I also worked for Pacific Lutheran University and Tacoma Goodwill.

How did your experiences in Clover Park School District help prepare you for this path?

I attended Park Lodge and Idlewild Elementary Schools as well as Mann Jr. High and Lakes High School. School was a positive experience for me with good teachers, good grades and fun. I learned when you work hard you will be rewarded in many ways.

Who was the most influential teacher or administrator to you as a student in the district? Why?

Mr. Ed Harmic was my choir teacher and choir was a huge part of my life. He was inspiring and challenging and gave me so many opportunities.

Also, Miss Eunice Robeck. She was creative and very, very tough, so I learned a lot!

What was the most valuable thing you learned while attending school in Clover Park School District?

I learned that being challenged is both fun and rewarding. If you apply yourself and dig in, you can do it!

Do you have any favorite memories from when you attended school in Clover Park School District?

I remember the earthquake, the big Alaska one. I was walking outside at Lakes and all of the heavy doors were swinging open and shut and the landscape was rocking like you wouldn't believe. Everyone was pretty scared.

What advice do you have for Clover Park School District students?

Pay attention and care about you do in school. Give everything you do your best shot. Apathy won't get you anywhere, but extra effort will. It's up to you!

What opportunities exist in your career sector for new graduates? Is post-secondary education required for this field?

Good communication skills are in demand everywhere—the world needs graduates who can speak, read and write English well. A college degree is usually required to advance in the marketing/communications field.