

March 14, 2015

Women quietly do extraordinary things every day. To help shed light on the resilience and strength of Hoosier women and celebrate their accomplishments and contributions to history we are releasing an article every day in the month of March. These articles showcase how women have moved Indiana and our country forward and who inspire others to do great things in their own lives.

Women in Indiana have an important role to play. You can make a difference by:

- Learning more about the issues affecting women in Indiana.
- Voicing your opinion on issues important to you
- Serving as an advocate for women
- Mentoring another woman
- Join ICW's mailing list or social media outlets to be notified of upcoming events, programs and resources available to women

Go to www.in.gov/icw to learn more about the Indiana Commission for Women and their current initiatives.

Sources:

- **Indiana Commission for Women**
(<http://www.in.gov/icw/2440.htm>)
- **Radius Indiana**
(<http://www.radiusindiana.com/staff>)
- **Writing Her Story**
(http://www.in.gov/icw/files/Her_Story_-_Lt_Gov.pdf)

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Women's History Month 2015

Telling 31 stories in 31 days this March.

Former Lt. Governor Becky Skillman

Indiana has a long and proud history of strong, smart women breaking new ground for future generations. Former Lt. Governor Becky Skillman has created her own path and shown young women that anything is possible with hard work. As the first woman elected as Lt. Governor in Indiana, Becky Skillman has served as a leader for the state in advancing Indiana's economic prosperity. Before her tenure as Lt. Governor, she served sixteen years as an elected official in Lawrence County and then twelve years as an Indiana Senator.

Lt. Governor Skillman worked tirelessly as a public servant for the State of Indiana for many years. One of her many accomplishments was working with former State Senator Vi Simpson to write and pass legislation that created the Indiana Commission for Women. "We wanted to ensure that women received all of the information that they needed to fully participate in every aspect of society." From the beginning, Becky Skillman approached the legislation as a collaborative, bi-partisan effort. "I've said so many times – most of the success we have in life, whether professionally or personally, is due to the strength of our relationships. I think the Indiana Commission for Women can be a great relationship building organization."

Skillman helped lead the way for women's full participation in their communities. During her tenure as Lt. Governor, she created the *Advancing Hoosier Women in Business* seminars that were held in several communities across the state over the six years the series took place. Women from different stages of life and experience attended the events. Skillman remarked that she had been inspired to see how women rise to the challenge during very tough economic times. In 2011, she stated, "The past two years have caused all of us to be more creative and innovate. I think women particularly fare very well when you are accustomed to improvising anyway."

Becky Skillman has become a role model for many Hoosier women, a role she takes very seriously. "You know you are sort of blazing a trail here and if it provides encouragement to other women that is exactly what I wanted to do." Skillman is quick to remind us that it's important to give back to others, but we also must make time for ourselves. "You should give a lot of yourself, but you also have to take care of yourself and that has to occur one day at a time. Say no when you need to, so that when you say yes your heart is really in it."

After leaving office in January 2013, Becky Skillman joined Radius Indiana as its President/CEO. Radius Indiana is a regional partnership representing 8 counties in South Central Indiana: Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, and Washington Counties.

Reprinted from the 2011 Writing Her Story: Inspirational Hoosier Women (Lt. Governor Becky Skillman)