

Writing Her Story: Inspirational Hoosier Women

Patzetta Trice



Patzetta Trice has been breaking glass ceilings and showing future generations that women are as powerful as men for many years. As a business woman at General Motors, she was able to see the company go full circle from an organization with very few women and minorities in top level

positions to a firm that embraced and supported diversity at every level. “Being at General Motors helped to shape not only my cultural philosophies in terms of dealing in those environments, but also being a woman that you don’t have to accept less than what you know you’re worth.” She was able to grow in the company and eventually became the Director of Communications and Public Affairs.

Patzetta knew from a young age that there would be barriers that she would face in her life, but her father taught her never to reciprocate the actions of her attackers. Those early teachings helped her to establish standards in her life for how she expected to be treated and how she treated others. “I had standards that no matter the consequence, I was not going to go against...I survived, but it wasn’t without a little bit of pain.”

She’s had many titles, including her current title of Chief Communications Officer for the Indianapolis Airport Authority, but doesn’t feel that names and recognitions are what are important. She gives credit to her staff and colleagues for the role that they have played in her life and the successes that she has experienced.

A very humble woman, Patzetta considers her greatest accomplishment in life to be her daughter, Erika. “She is my best friend...She is a phenomenal human being and I am so blessed to have had her.” She is quick to recognize the importance of young women in our country. She knows that they are our future. “I really want to teach the little girls, I want us to be concerned about the next generations.”

Patzetta is passionate about many issues, but at the top of her list are education and human rights. She feels that education is the “root of our being” and is necessary for us to realize our potential. Her passion for human rights is influenced by her belief that we all need to live by the basic principles of life. “Just treating people right – I don’t get why that is so difficult.”

Patzetta has served as a commissioner for the Indiana Commission for Women since 2005. She believes that the commission is a “way to garner the energies of women in this state. I’m not sure of another organization that’s born of state government that is doing that, that is

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empowered to do that, that has the tools and resources to

do that. For wherever we are today, we have an opportunity ahead to really make something of that existence.” She feels that it is important to serve as an advocate for women because “there are still inequalities, there is still work to do and if I can in some small way, help to change things for some little girl, I want to do that.”

Patzetta has helped to break down barriers in the business world so that women can sit at the table and fully participate in life, but she knows there is still more that needs to be done in order to help move Indiana women forward.



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

- Voicing your opinion
- Serving as an advocate for women
- Pursuing higher education
- Mentoring another woman
- Learning more about the issues that affect women in Indiana.

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

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