

## **BILL SEVIER**

Bill Sevier is a 1966 graduate of Herculaneum High School where he played on the football and basketball teams. He lost a kidney as a result of a football injury. The injury ended his participation in sports. However, he continued in his junior and senior year to help coach the 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team and serve as manager of the high school team. He was involved in several clubs, including Honor Society, Student Council, and he was a thespian. Bill graduated from Jefferson College with an Associate's degree in 1968. He played baseball, was involved in theatre, and served as Student Body president. He received his Bachelor's degree in Education in 1970 from the University of Missouri-Columbia and his Master's in School Counseling from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 1974.

In 1970, Bill began his professional career in education at Hazelwood West Junior High. He taught history and coached ninth grade football and basketball. He then transferred to Hazelwood Central High School in 1974 and served as a school counselor; in those days, Hazelwood Central had 4800 students and twelve counselors. In 1978, Bill began working in the Special School District as a school counselor in the career technology education division high schools. After nineteen years there, one year in the Parkway District, and one year at St. Louis Career Academy, Bill retired. That same year, St. Louis Public Schools opened a new state of the art technical high school. He came out of retirement to be a school counselor at Clyde C. Miller Career Academy for fourteen years. He retired in 2013 after spending 43 years working in secondary education.

Throughout this lengthy career, Bill has taken his professional involvement far beyond his office. He has been termed a real "go getter" and "whatever it takes" kind of guy when it comes to working in the state of Missouri and nationally to provide opportunities for both students and school counselors. For over thirty years, Bill has been an active member of the Missouri School Counselor Association (MSCA). In the early nineties, he served as president-elect and as president of the MSCA. He has had national involvement in the American School Counselor Association from the late 1980's to the mid 1990's. During this time, he served as the state on-site coordinator for two national ASCA conferences held in St. Louis. He has served on the state governing board and program committee of MSCA from 1984 until present. In 2014, Bill was honored by being awarded the Ed Ailor Award which recognizes retired school counselors whose contributions to the association and profession have been significant.

Bill, along with co-worker Lucy Brewer, began a Leadership Development Program sponsored by Rotary for the state of Missouri. They started this program, the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA), in 1992. Over the past 24 years, nearly 1700 students, including one or two from Herculaneum have attended this four-day program. The program is offered to high school sophomores and juniors each summer to teach team building, learn about leadership styles, but most importantly, to develop Service above Self leadership skills. The program is most recently being held at William Woods University. Bill worked as director of the program for twelve years and continues to offer his counseling and mentoring services every summer.

In the mid 1990's, Bill served four years as the Missouri state coordinator for the Counseling for High Skills project. This joint project, created by the Dewitt-Wallace Foundation, Kansas State University, and the ACT testing corporation, involved nearly 40,000 students in seven Midwestern states. This project sought to increase the knowledge, expertise, and commitment of secondary school counselors in helping almost all high school students consider enrollment in some kind of postsecondary career-oriented education. As the state coordinator, Bill's work involved meeting and working with the 50+ community colleges, private technical schools, and select colleges and universities in the state to help set up the initial data collection process. The data was then turned into useful information that school counselors were able to use with students in making post-secondary plans.

Bill and his wife Shari (also a retired school counselor) have been married 21 years and live in Ellisville, Mo. Between the two of them they have four children, ages 35 to 43, and seven grandchildren, ages 2 to 24. Bill has three younger siblings who also are Herculaneum graduates: Nancy, class of '68, Susie, class of '70, and Robbie graduated in 1976.

Bill and Shari enjoy traveling in the US, and a couple of his favorite hobbies are photography and golf. Bill has two therapy dogs, and weekly they visit the residents at two local nursing homes.