

Patricia A. Melton

Class of 1977

Patricia Melton grew up in Cleveland and attended nine different schools during her elementary and middle school years. Through her own initiative, she secured a scholarship through the A Better Chance (ABC) program. Patricia excelled in athletics at Middlesex, winning nine varsity letters in field hockey, basketball, and lacrosse. She went to Yale after Middlesex, and her athletic career continued to flourish. She was a seven-time individual Ivy League champion in track and field and was named an All-American in 1982. After graduating from Yale, Patricia continue to compete on the track, reaching the final of the Olympic Trials in the 800 meters in 1988.

Patricia began working as an educator following college, working in urban school districts as varied as Seattle, Boston, Cleveland, and Indianapolis. She helped create nine different K-12 school during her career. Patricia currently serves as the President of New Haven Promise, a place-based scholarship program collaboratively created by the City of New Have, Yale, and the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. New Haven Promise challenges students to achieve a B average and complete 40 hours of community service in exchange for funding for college. The program continues to monitor and supports its scholarship recipients through college and at the start of their careers.

