

(DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD)

Thelma Kubitskey

Thelma Kubitskey knows about second chances. She was just 19 years old and fresh out of high school, when she started her career as a Northville Township water department clerk. When she retired 33 years later, she had succeeded in becoming Director of Finance and Assistant Township.

Thelma credits Schoolcraft for giving her the boost (and skills) she needed. She was at a standstill in her career, but wasn't sure what to do. David Lelko, the township manager at the time, got her started.

"David gave me the nudge I needed," Thelma notes. I was nervous and wasn't sure I could afford college. He told me to look at Schoolcraft. He knew it was a great fit for me, educationally and financially."

Dave drove her to meet with Schoolcraft counselors to get enrolled. They helped her plan her curriculum to meet her career goals.

"My job gave me a basis for determining what I should study," she adds. "The Schoolcraft faculty and counselors gave me tools and advice I needed. It was Schoolcraft's faculty that really influenced and motivated her. There were so many wonderful professors."

Thelma completed her associates degree from Schoolcraft, then went on to get her bachelor's degree in from Madonna University. "Schoolcraft advisors were instrumental in helping me pick Madonna, they made the transition easy."

As a result of her education, Thelma not only advanced at work, but she went on to serve as president of the Michigan Municipal Finance Officers Association and of the Wayne County Treasurer's Association, and served on the Michigan Municipal Treasurer's Association. She recently retired from Northville Township, but has since come out of retirement to serve as City Budget Director for Westland.

Thelma not only believes in Schoolcraft's mission—transforming lives through education—but feels she is a perfect example. "I would tell anyone that Schoolcraft gave me direction for my life and career," she encourages. "If you are like I was, not moving ahead in your career, go to Schoolcraft and get a new start, you'll be amazed at what you can accomplish." ●

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