

# MELISSA ANN SLONE

## HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Class of 2017

Melissa was born in 1969 and graduated from Highlands in 1987. After graduation, she attended Northern Kentucky University on a softball scholarship and joined the basketball team as a walk-on. After her sophomore year, Melissa earned a basketball scholarship and decided to focus her last two years on basketball. She graduated from NKU in 1991, with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting. She then went on to Marshall University where she was a graduate assistant with the Women's Basketball staff. While at Marshall, she obtained a Masters of Science in Health & Physical Education degree. In 2008, Melissa returned to NKU and earned a Masters of Arts in Education.

At Highlands, Melissa played five years of varsity basketball for Don Dobson and was a four-year starter at the point guard position. She was the first female at Highlands to earn five varsity basketball letters and was a member of the All-Region Basketball Team her sophomore, junior, and senior years. Her 1,590 career points are the 5th highest of all time and she ranks 4th in total assists. She was the leading scorer in basketball from 1985 through 1987 and was a member of the 1984 and 1985 Regional Championship teams. She was All-State Honorable Mention her senior year and was named to the NKAC All-Opponent Team in 1986 and 1987. She was also named to the Famous Recipe All-Tourney Team in 1985, 1986, and 1987.

Melissa played shortstop and second base on the softball team and she was on the All-Region Team her junior and senior years. Her senior year, she was the KY Post "Player of the Year" and her career batting average was .515 for Coach Ken Shields. In 1987, she led Northern Kentucky in batting with a .652 average.

Melissa also coached women's basketball at the collegiate level for 10 years at Marshall University, University of Akron, College of Charleston, and Montana State University. She has received numerous accolades from K12 Inc., Girl Scouts of America, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, the Make A Wish Foundation, and Carolina Basset Hound Rescue. She now lives in Charleston, SC, and works as the Executive Director of Partner Development for Pearson Online and Blended Learning.

She said, "I am thankful for all the opportunities that I was given through athletics and the way it shaped me. I am so lucky that I grew up in Fort Thomas and attended Highlands where I had so many amazing teachers, coaches, teammates, and friends who challenged me, encouraged me and believed in me. The greatest part of being an athlete was building relationships and competing with my teammates".