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Hail We Akron!

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Kathryn Vegso

Ann Kathleen Otto
ann@ann-otto.com

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Hail We Akron!

Kathryn Vegso, Dean of Women; later Director Women's Resource Center- circa 1960s-1970s (*titles and dates need verified*)

I entered the University of Akron as the first generation from either side of my family to attend college. I was able to do that by earning a full scholarship the first two years and partial scholarships the rest. While the University provided financial resources for students in the greater Akron area who didn't have the resources to attend college, we needed support and guidance. Luckily for women students, we had Kathryn Vegso.

What an excellent role model. I don't recall how I first met her but remember her positive outlook and expressive smile. Whether it was an academic or a personal problem, her door was always open. She advocated for women students. As advisor to Women's League (a.k.a. Associated Women Students) she made certain that the President of that organization was at the table whenever the President of Student Council (*usually* a male student) was invited to meet with administration on an issue. As her interests shifted to adult education in the 1980s, she founded the University's Adult Resource Center offering programs primarily for women entering or returning to the workforce. Her influence didn't stop with the University. She was co-founder of the Akron Women's Network, and among her many awards, she was named the 1983 Woman of the Year by the Akron Women's History Project.

Many professional women in Akron today were mentored by Kathryn, and I'm proud to be one of them.

Ann Otto

Text: 236 words



Kathryn Vegso