

**Outstanding Alumnus 1994**  
**Derek Schmidt**



Derek Schmidt graduated from Independence High School and attended Independence Community College during 1986–87. He continued his education at the University of Kansas, serving as editor of the University Daily Kansan and earning his Bachelor of Science Degree in Journalism in 1990, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. Schmidt went on to study history at Cambridge University, law at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and the Latin American legal systems in Sao Paulo, Brazil. In 1996, he graduated from Georgetown University with a Juris Doctorate. Throughout college, he served as legislative assistant to Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, advising her on federal budget, foreign relations, and environmental issues. A former assistant attorney general for the State of Kansas and former special counsel to Kansas Governor Bill Graves, Mr. Schmidt's commitment to government continues today as the Republican nominee to represent the 15<sup>th</sup> district in the Kansas Senate. He is currently practicing law with the Independence firm Scovel, Emert, Heasty and Chubb and serving on the board of directors for the Eastern Kansas Branch of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and for the Leadership Kansas program.