

Outstanding Alumnus 1988

Merle R. Blair



Merle R. Blair attended Independence Community College from 1953–55 before graduating from Washburn University in 1957. He entered the broadcasting business in 1954, working at KIND Radio in Independence. Blair continued his career in radio until 1983. Over the years, he held different positions including Executive Vice President of KTOP and General Manager of KTOP-KDVV in Topeka, KS. He was the radio voice of Washburn sports from 1967-81. He has served as president of the Topeka Sales and Marketing Executives, Phi Delta Theta Alumni Association, the Washburn Ichabod Club, Washburn University Alumni Association, and as chairman of the Washburn University Regents. Blair's honors include the 1999 Kansas Association of Broadcasters Distinguished Service Award, induction in the Washburn Athletic Hall of Fame, Topeka's Advertising Man of the Year, and Phi Delta Theta Alumni Man of the year. Since 1983, he has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce and will continue to do so until 2001.