

2015 Hall of Fame Inductee

Peggy Austin

Class of 1974

With roots at Nathaniel Hawthorne Elementary School and Brittany Woods Middle School, Peggy Austin's heart is never far from University City. Graduating from University City High School in 1974, she earned a bachelor of arts in Business Psychology from the University of Missouri - Columbia and began her career in advertising sales at Clear Channel Radio where she rose to director of National Sales. Austin then spent ten years with CBS television before moving to the agency side of the business where she was quickly promoted to vice president of Marketing and Public Relations for a top Chicago-based firm.



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In 2009, she founded GoldStar Communications, a national healthcare marketing, public relations and event-management company. GoldStar became known as the go-to agency for healthcare in multicultural communities, garnering numerous awards for their work with Walgreens, the American Heart Association, University of Illinois Hospital of Health Sciences System and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She earned the Golden Trumpet Award from the Publicity Club of Chicago in 2013 and the coveted Skyline Award in 2014 from the Public Relations Society of America.

Austin was named one of Chicago's 50 Most Influential Women in Business by The Chicago Defender, recognized for five consecutive years by Who's Who in Black Chicago and commended by the Illinois World AIDS Day Committee. She serves on numerous boards, is a high school and college mentor and serves on the Health and Wellness Ministry at her church.