

BRIAN J. MARTIN
CLASS OF 1968

One of seven children of Rodger and Katherine Martin, Brian grew up in the Highlands section of Lowell. His parents were both school teachers and his mother was a longtime school committee woman and educational reformer. Brian followed in his parents footsteps.

Following his graduation from Lowell High School, he went on to receive his degree in Physical Education from UMASS Amherst, and a Masters in Sports Administration. He began his career in 1973 as a teacher, coach and administrator at the Greater Lowell Vocational High School. In 1973, Brian received a Masters in Public Administration from the JFK School of Government, Harvard University and began his career in public service. He served as an Adjunct Professor at UMASS Lowell from 1998-2000. Brian's public service career in Lowell dates back more than three decades.

There is no doubt about his love for his city. He was elected a City Councilor in 1982 and served until 1989. Brian was 33 years old when he was chosen by his fellow councilors to serve as Mayor of Lowell, the youngest mayor in the city's history. He was the Assistant City Manager of Lowell and became City Manager in 1995. In 2000, Brian left to work in the private sector. He returned to his alma mater in 2005 as the Athletic Director after three years as interim president and general manager of the Lowell Lock Monsters of the American Hockey League.

Brian went on to serve as the District Director and Senior Advisor on Economic Development for Congresswoman Niki Tsongas from 2007 to 2013.

In 2013, Brian became Head of School at Lowell High School. He led a dramatic cultural shift at the school to create a professional "teaching and learning" environment and programming to support every student at Lowell High School. This included refocus on Chapter 74 programs, special education skills curriculum, and a renewed emphasis on career pathway course work through internship and hands on learning to prepare students for the 21st century.

During Brian's tenure as Head of School, the graduation rates increased to 85.5%, the highest ever. The drop-out rates were lowered to 1.6%, the lowest ever. Daily attendance increased to 93.3%, highest ever. He organized and grant funded PALS program to target "at-risk" students with mentors. Under his leadership, the high school achieved 10 year reaccreditation from NEASC in 2015.

Brian is a founding member of the LHS Athletic Hall of Fame, LHS Distinguished Alumni Award and Project Learn. He was also an outstanding athlete from the Class of 1968. Brian garnered numerous collegiate honors, including All-New England (1970), All Yankee Conference (1970-1971) and team CoCaptain (1971-1972).

Brian lives in Lowell with his wife Elise. He has three children; Brian, Ellen and Daniel.