

2010 Tribute to Women Honoree – Joan Squires



Joan Squires is President of Omaha Performing Arts and responsible for the Holland Performing Arts Center and the Orpheum Theater. Under her leadership, Omaha Performing Arts has won several awards including the Non-Profit of the Year Award from the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce in 2008.

Squires' impact includes bringing to Omaha a wide variety of performing arts events, as well as outreach and educational efforts to support, enhance and expand appreciation of the arts. During the construction of the Holland Performing Arts Center she was instrumental in its opening and its successful launch. She has successfully helped grow Omaha Performing

Arts to a presenter of nearly 500 events each year, reaching more than 330,000 people annually. This is supported by over 80 employees and more than 700 volunteers.

Squires has put together a strong team of co-workers with many key positions being held by women. She is a consummate professional, knowledgeable about the smallest details on the financial statement to the number of seats that need to be sold for any given concert. But when you come to a performance at either of the venues, it is as if she is welcoming you to her home; warm, gracious and enthusiastic.

A foundation in music and business administration has led her to a career from teaching in the classroom to the National Endowment for the Arts, the League of American Orchestras, and positions with various symphony orchestras, including President and CEO of The Phoenix Symphony. In all positions, she has demonstrated her commitment to diversity and to the advancement of women.

Squires has garnered several awards for excellence in her career including Woman of Distinction from the Midlands Business Journal in 2009. She was named "One of the Most Powerful Women in Nebraska" by the Lincoln-Journal Star in 2007. Squires also serves the community through human services and other non-profits in Nebraska including the Salvation Army Kroc Center Performing Arts Sub Committee, the Nebraska Educational Television fundraising campaign and the Nebraska Chapter of the American Parkinson's Disease Association.

Those who know her say that she is a visionary. To some, this great positive energy is almost contagious, making everyone around her feel better.