

BIOGRAPHY

Brian P. McLane

Brian McLane's work experience has been as varied as it has been interesting. As a result of his parents' inspiration and guidance, Mr. McLane was the first wheelchair-bound student to graduate from his high school and went on to graduate from Syracuse University with a degree in broadcasting. Under his leadership, he turned a six-member service fraternity with a poor campus image into a leading advocacy organization for making Syracuse University and other campuses nationwide more accessible to people with disabilities. Brian went on to earn a master's degree in sports administration from Ohio University. During his college years, he managed rock bands, turning this into financial successes. He worked for a time in television and coached a semi-professional basketball team that recorded 132 wins against 37 losses over six seasons. He is the former director of public and membership relations for the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, served as executive assistant to state assemblyman Mel Zimmer for five years. He was also Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Cicero for four years, building a highly successful program. Mr. McLane served in the Cuomo administration as Assistant Commissioner in the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for six years before assuming the position of Assistant Commissioner of the New York State Education Department's Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities.

In this position he carried on his lifelong advocacy from a higher plain, helping to shape the state's policies and programs that provide opportunities for people with disabilities. He fought for the young and old alike on issues ranging from preschool services for young children to college and employment opportunities for adults who have disabilities. In that pursuit, he has lectured, lobbied, persuaded and pressured government, business and the public at large to be more receptive to the potential that lies within people if given the opportunity.

Mr. McLane is known as a champion for the rights of individuals with disabilities, including lobbying for and consulting on the design of facilities for the physically disabled in the Carrier Dome and other major public venues. His advocacy efforts have been recognized by his induction into the National Hall of Fame for People with Disabilities in 2000; the receipt of the Caritas Medal from Niagara University; Community Leadership award (Hudson Valley Community College), and numerous other awards and recognitions.

A devoted alumnus of Syracuse University, Mr. McLane serves as a member of the Board of Directors on their National Alumni Board. Mr. McLane has a fund established in his name for support services for students with disabilities as well as a fellowship in his name at the Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs. In 2003 he was named fan of the year for his devotion to Syracuse University Athletics and in 2004 was recognized by the University as a Letter Winner of Distinction. He also serves as a member of the University's Athletic Policy Board.

Mr. McLane currently serves as President and Founder of Paradigm Solutions, a strategic alliance company. Paradigm Solutions specializes in helping individuals in the area of creative problem solving, community and government relations, and networking. Paradigm Solutions also works in the area of federal and state legislative advocacy. In the area of disability compliance, Paradigm Solutions works with their clients to move beyond compliance and helps them recognize market opportunities for their companies.

In January of 2006, Mr. McLane undertook the responsibility of serving as the Executive Director of the Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University. In this capacity Mr. McLane works with Chairman Peter Blanck, and the twelve colleges that make up Syracuse University, in providing strategic direction that will enable the institute to establish centers on innovation in meeting the unique needs of persons with disabilities.

Born with cerebral palsy, Mr. McLane learned at an early age not to accept limits on his abilities. Never tell Brian McLane there is something he cannot do. It runs contrary to his personal philosophy that you only can succeed if you are not afraid to fail. As a result, all he ever has asked for himself and others like him is the chance to fail. More often than not, chances he had been given have been opportunities to succeed.