Distinguished Alumni Award

H. Fred Mittelstaedt

The University High School Alumni Association honors H. Fred Mittelstaedt, class of 1976, as the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient for his contributions to his profession and civic service.

With a very successful career of over 35+ years in the Accounting field, Mittelstaedt is recognized for his significant professional accomplishments and overall contributions to his community.

Mittelstaedt graduated from University High School in 1976 where he displayed an early interest in his English, Math, and Accounting classes. He credited the teachers for having a free exchange of ideas in these courses, where they encouraged the students to make creative linkages between seemingly disparate stories, movies, or events, a valuable skill in his later endeavors. During his years at U-High, Mittelstaedt also maintained a high GPA and made the National Honor Society, while earning a Varsity letter for Baseball.

After high school, Mittelstaedt attended Illinois State University, where he obtained both a Bachelor's (with High Honors) and Master's Degree in Accounting, in 1979 and 1982 respectively. He later went on to earn a Doctorate in Accounting from the University of Illinois in 1987.

Mittelstaedt is currently the Department of Accountancy Chair at the University of Notre Dame, where his department has attained extremely high national rankings. For his contributions, Mittelstaedt has received numerous professional awards, such as the Deloitte Foundation Professor of Accountancy, the PricewaterhouseCoopers Faculty Fellow, and the Executive MBA Outstanding Teacher Award (to name just a few). Prior to his time at the university, Mittelstaedt also worked in the field of public accounting at both Guthoff & Co. and Price Waterhouse. One of his most honored accomplishments was earning the Elijah Watts Sells Award for his CPA Exam performance. The award was given to only the 95 candidates with the highest scores out of 57,000 candidates nationwide.

In addition to his career, Mittelstaedt has also demonstrated great leadership and service to his community. He has dedicated a significant amount of time by serving on board and committees, such as the Federation of Schools of Accountancy. He has also produced many informative publications and texts, and was also called upon by Congress to testify on the topic of retiree health benefits due to his significant expertise in the field. In addition, he was co-author of Financial Reporting & Analysis (4th to 7th editions).

Mittelstaedt is definitely proud to be a member of the U-High family, as his brother, uncle, and two cousins also attended the school as well.

University High School



