

LAURA BLAIR - 2007 AWARD WINNER – RED WING CAMPUS

Laura Blair, 1998 graduate of Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical (Red Wing campus) received the 2007 Outstanding Alumni Award during graduation ceremonies. Laura Blair was selected because she exemplifies life-long learning and is an outstanding community leader.

Blair's experience with life-long learning began when she earned a two-year degree from Alexandria Technical College. After a decade in Nevada that included a plan to complete an undergraduate degree in English, she returned to Red Wing. She contacted Southeast Tech to take a computer course. One course led to two years of study, and she ended up working with the college's management information systems. "I got more out of the two-year technical college than I ever anticipated," Laura said.

Now, as the City of Red Wing's information technology director, Laura is back in school on weekends completing her undergraduate degree in English through Augsburg College in Minneapolis. "This is something I want to finish for myself," she said. The 45-year-old is now looking into a master's degree through Augsburg. "I believe that you can never stand still," she said. "At 45, I'm trying to keep going."

She is a member of Dawnbreakers Kiwanis, serves on the United Way Board, and volunteers at the Friendship House and KidsCount, a local program for abused children. This mother of a 22-year-old daughter has purchased a motorcycle. She commented, "I figure, when in Rome...."

When she spoke at the graduation ceremony, she shared her life-long journey with education. She emphasize that graduation is just the beginning, not the end, of the life-long journey.