

## **Rick Herring**

*2015 Distinguished Alumnus- presented June 7, 2015*

Rick Herring, a member of Southern Columbia Area High School's Class of 1978, was selected as the 2015 Distinguished Alumnus in recognition of his distinguished business career and his service to his community.

Born and raised in Elysburg, Rick is an example of a small town boy who made good. A self-described, above average student in high school and college- who spent summers working on local farms and who was always up for a good game of baseball- Rick turned his interest in business and finance into a long and successful career that culminated with his hiring as President of Giant Food Stores. In rising to the top, Rick always kept the lessons taught by his mom and dad, the late Glenn and Dolores Herring, close to his heart. His parents instilled in him the importance of being dedicated, hardworking, and accountable in all that a person does.

After graduating from Southern Columbia Area High School, Rick attended Albright College earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. He completed graduate-level work at Fairleigh Dickinson University earning Masters in Business Administration in Finance. After meeting all educational requirements, Rick took and passed the rigorous and demanding CPA exam becoming a Certified Public Accountant.

After graduation, Rick landed his first job as a public accountant with Arthur Anderson- recognized in the 1980's as one of the Big Eight" accounting firms. Three years later, he accepted a job with the Pathmark supermarket chain in New Jersey, eventually leading their internal audit department.

In 1989, he accepted employment with Giant Food Stores, beginning a 25-year relationship with that company. Rick's first job at Giant was working in the retailer's auditing department. In 1996, he was named vice president and controller for Giant Foods. In 2001, he took on the role of vice-president of Giant's parent company, Ahold Financial Services. In 2003, he was appointed Chief Financial Officer for Giant Food Stores. In that role he was responsible for all financial operations, including governance, acquisitions, accounting, and reporting. In 2009, Rick's hard work and dedication paid many dividends as he was named President of Giant Food Stores. When Rick joined the company in 1986, Giant Food Stores had 48 stores. As president of the company, he was responsible for managing over \$7 billion in sales, operating 200 supermarkets and employing 33,000 associates across Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. In 2014, after a long and successful career, Rick announced his retirement.

In addition to his success in the business world, Rick is also recognized as a solid family man. He and his wife Patti have been happily married for 30 years. They have 4 children, Christina, who graduated from Bloomsburg University with a degree in Nursing; Matt, a Business Marketing graduate from West Chester University; Elisabeth, who will be a senior at Indiana University of PA majoring in Nutrition; and Josh, who is going to be a senior at Mechanicsburg Area High School

Rick is involved and engaged in his community and donates his time to serve on youth ministry and mission outreach boards, coaching his son's baseball team, and serving as the Audit Director for his church. Rick is also a board member of Economics PA, a non-profit company that is very familiar to Southern Columbia Area teachers and students. The non-profit promotes economic education in K-12, schools using programs such as the Stock Market Game.

Rick was once quoted as saying that his career goal was to find a job that would allow him "to live out his faith, his values, to raise his kids and have a good career with a good company that he could be loyal to." After reviewing his record, it is safe to say that Rick has certainly accomplished this and much more.