

# Amy Anne WALLER FORD

*Class of 1982*



This year's Great Graduate from the Class of 1982, Amy Anne Waller Ford, is one of the most highly involved individuals anywhere.

After graduating from high school and Oklahoma State University, she owned and operated NEON, Inc., an emergency physician staffing company that employed more than 100 physicians and had operations in Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas. Today, she is a partner in RedAnt, LLC providing comprehensive business development, management, messaging and strategic public relations consulting services.

Deeply involved in community and civic activities, she dedicates her energies to a number of philanthropic endeavors, including economic development, education and sustainable water policy. She is a strong advocate for the protection of children in our schools but is perhaps best known for her leadership on a number of local, statewide and national water policy issues, a topic she has championed for more than a decade.

In 2012 she was appointed to serve on the Oklahoma Public/



Private Water Task Force by Gov. Mary Fallin, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby and Choctaw Nation Chief Gregory Pyle with the charge of facilitating meaningful dialogue about Oklahoma's current water management policies and challenges.

Ford serves on the boards of directors for the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Foundation, the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals and Citizens For the Protection of the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer. She is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma's Class XXVIII, was recently selected for the Journal Record's "50 Making a Difference" recognition and is a 2015 finalist for Woman of the Year.

Ford represented Oklahoma's Second Congressional District on the State Board of Education and the Oklahoma State Board of Career and Technology. At the same time, she served as chairman of the Oklahoma Standards Setting Steering Committee.

Closer to her home, she serves as a director of the Durant Partners in Education, the Durant Crisis Control Center and is a Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer.

She and her husband, Dr. Jim Ford, have one daughter, Erin, a physician's assistant who lives in Keller, Texas with her husband.

Our Great Graduate said she has faced a number of challenges in her life, beginning with the physical demands of being a Tigette and the academic skill required to master physics during her days at Broken Arrow High School. But no matter how complex the issue might be, she said a lesson she learned then continues to guide her activities:

"You just wade in, learn all you can about the subject, and start splashing around until you come up with the right solutions," she said.