

CIRILLO/GOBERIS recording transcript FINAL**Women of Mines: WISEM Oral History Project**

Produced by: Women in Science, Engineering and Mathematics (WISEM); Colorado School of Mines History Archive.

Narrators: Dixie CIRILLO, Associate Director of Athletics Compliance Coordinator, Colorado School of Mines; and Lisa GOBERIS, Director of Student Life Business Administration, Colorado School of Mines.

Interviewer: Carmela Raygoza-Heredia

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00:00:05

RAYGOZA-HEREDIA: Hi everyone, I'm Mel Raygoza-Heredia. I'm currently here with Dixie Cirillo and Lisa Goberis. Dixie Cirillo is the current Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance and Senior Women's Administrator. Lisa Goberis is the Director of Student Life Business Administration for Colorado School of Mines.

RAYGOZA-HEREDIA: Dixie Cirillo finished her 31st year at the Colorado School of Mines. Cirillo currently serves as the Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance and senior Women's Administrator. She also serves as the Deputy Title Nine Coordinator for Athletics. Prior to her appointment in the Athletic Department in 2002, Cirillo spent one year in the Cashiers Office and 13 years as the Assistant Director of Financial Aid at CSM. Cirillo, who divided her time between Financial Aid and Athletics from 2002 to 2005, was also named Assistant Director of Athletics upon her full-time appointment in the Athletics Department. Cirillo graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a bachelor's degree in business administration-marketing and received her master's degree in management from Colorado State University. Cirillo and her husband Russell reside in Arvada with their daughter Page and son Mark.

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RAYGOZA-HEREDIA: Lisa Goberis is the Director of Student Life Business Administration for Colorado School of Mines. She is responsible for supervision of the campus ID program, also known as BlasterCard, and the contract management for Dining Services, Bookstore and Vending. She also provides financial support for the Division of Student Life and serves as the logo and trademark administrator for the Mines campus. She also serves the Mines campus by serving on the Safety Committee and Sustainability Committee. Lisa has been with the Colorado School of Mines since 1995. She earned her bachelor's in science and business, with an emphasis in accounting [business administration-accounting], from University of Northern Colorado. Lisa spends her free time supporting her sons and husband's hockey teams. She also enjoys spending her time reading and connecting with her family, especially her grandson Liam. [Interview interrupted by a break in the recording.]

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RAYGOZA-HEREDIA: We are here for the Women of Mines Oral History Project on the day of 4/22 and the year of 2022. I am currently in the WISEM [Women in Science, Engineering and Mathematics] House on the Colorado School of Mines campus while Lisa and Dixie are in the Volk Gymnasium, Room 318 [Colorado School of Mines campus]. [Interview interrupted by a break in the recording.]

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CIRILLO: Hi, I'm Dixie Cirillo. I am in the Athletic Department, and I have been at Colorado School of Mines for 31 years.

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GOBERIS: Hi, I'm Lisa Goberis and I'm in the Student Life Department and I have been here for almost 27 [years].

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CIRILLO: So, as we have both been here quite some time, we've seen lots of changes. I think the biggest change that I have seen on campus is the change that we have seen for the care of our students at Mines. We have seen our different departments grow over the years in terms of CASA [Center for Academic Services and Advising], the Counseling Center, the CARE [Crisis Assessment, Response and Education] Team--those different things that, the resources that are available to the students in times of crisis and need of support. I think that's the biggest change that I have seen over the 31 years that I've been here. We've seen the obvious changes of our campus growing, the buildings being renovated, buildings being built, that kind of area

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CIRILLO: And Athletics, we have seen huge impacts and what we've seen of going from teams that are considered low on the bottom of the pack to the top of the pack. In the last couple years we have been Number One in the RMAC [Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference]. We are now currently sitting the second in the United States, of the NCAA [National College Athletic Association] of being top in the country in many of our sports and we're considered one of the best Division II NCAA programs in the country. So, that's been a huge impact. And, seeing that has been a phenomenal impact of what I've seen.

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CIRILLO: In our department, we have seen going from just one Athletic Director and one Associate Athletic Director, both being men, and now we have one Athletic Director and we have two Associate Athletic Directors and both of us are being females. And, we have an Assistant Athletic Director that's a female and we have three Assistant Athletic Directors, and so we've seen a huge growth. And so all those people are there to support our students and our student athletes.

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CIRILLO: So that's been a huge impact that we've seen in the 31 years that I've been here. So, lots of support for students and student athletes and I think that's been the best thing that I've seen on campus. So, Lisa, what did you see? [Interview interrupted by a break in the recording.]

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GOBERIS: The biggest change that I've seen in my area, which is Student Life, is in housing. When I first came here, we had about 850 students in residence halls and we had about 500 maybe that weren't in residence halls--they were in some type of apartment housing. And we are up to about 1,450 in residence halls and hopefully about almost 900 to 1000 in non-traditional residence halls. So, that would be our Mines Park apartments, Greek housing, and those types of housing.

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GOBERIS: Our goal is to house all freshmen on campus. We believe that it is a better experience for the students. They get the extra support which, as Dixie mentioned, is a high priority on our campus. We want them to have that support, we want them to be successful. We find that students that live in the residence halls for the first year, at least, are successful.

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GOBERIS: Along with the housing we, as Dixie mentioned earlier, we have really improved the facilities on our campus. We've built a large Rec Center that has been, that has received awards for its design; we have extended the Student Center; we have built, as I said before, more residence halls which includes a new dining hall. We are in the process of renovating all of our apartments up at Mines Park and it soon will be known as The Village at Mines Park. And we believe that that word "village" means a lot to us. It means that we are a community, a group, and we're here as one community instead of "Mines Park housing" this, you know, everybody being a silo. So, that's really important to us.

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GOBERIS: We've really improved our dining services. For our students, we've given extra options on campus. We have a larger, more expanded food court, we have some other outlets on campus that provide food options in a more laid out, more different location so that it's more convenient for everybody. As Dixie mentioned, two staff, staff has really grown over the years.

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GOBERIS: You know, residence halls, or Residence Life, used to be one person, and now I think we're up to almost 10. Student Life itself used to be one person and now we're up to five or six and we're expanding that all the time. It is our goal to give the best services to our students and have them be successful, and as our population grows on the campus, so must our staff. So, those are the biggest changes I've seen.

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GOBERIS: Just a little bit about my path at Mines: I came to Mines as an administrative assistant in the Student Life Department. Again, it was a very small department, there were three of us at the time. And that included Housing and Student Life. And now they're, as I said before, there's much more. And then I worked my way up and I became a coordinator, and then I became an assistant director and then Director. And so currently under my title of the Director of Student Life Business Administration, I have responsibility for the management of the Student Center; logos and trademarks; BlasterCard, which is our campus ID program; and then I manage the contracts for our services of Dining and Bookstore. How has your journey changed here at Mines?

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CIRILLO: Well, I started as the cashier back in '91 and I was in the Cashier's Office for a year. That gave me the opportunity to work with Financial Aid. I worked with Financial Aid staff while I was cashier and then got the opportunity to move to Financial Aid. While I was in the Financial Aid Office we merged Financial Aid and Admissions, and tried a one-stop shop-type situation which gave me the opportunity to do some Admissions and I did some campus visits on high schools and did lots of different things with Admissions and Financial Aid staffing.

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CIRILLO: Then the opportunity arose where I was able to work with Athletics and did some compliance while I was working in Financial Aid. At one point I was working full time in Financial Aid and was doing athletic compliance on top of that, and the additional time. That gave me the opportunity that in 2005 when we got a new athletic director, that he gave me the opportunity to stay in Financial Aid or move down to Athletics full time. That opportunity was, I took that opportunity and ran with it, and I was able to become the first female at Mines to have an athletic director title. I was the Assistant Athletic Director at that time and loved it, loved working in Athletics and loved doing that and so I've been that in Athletics since 2005. With that we have grown and now we have two associate athletic directors--Tiffany McCampbell is our other Associate Athletic Director—and it's just been a phenomenal opportunity for me.

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CIRILLO: So, being associate athletic director, I've absolutely loved working with our student athletes and that's given me the opportunity to grow and learn, and now I've really grown and our new athletic director that's been in place since 2013 has even taken that ship further where I've sat in his place in meetings and voted at the conference level, and during that kind of action where he, when he can be at different places on campus and engaging and doing that. It's been a great opportunity. So that's been my path at Mines. It's been an awesome opportunity. My husband graduated from Mines, so I, that was great. My daughter has since graduated from Mines and that was a great opportunity for me to be on campus and to see her come in, be a freshman, all the way to a senior and be at Mines and have an awesome opportunity to get her degree here, and doing that.

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CIRILLO: So working with my sister on campus is awesome. [GOBERIS laughs.] We are able to do lots of stuff together. We can go to lunch, we can go and do sessions together, we can vent together if we want to on things that are happening on campus that are positive or negative. But, it does come with its down points. There are times that I have things that are happening in my department or around me that I can't share. She has the same thing because we are both in Student Life, and we have to be in our paths and be in our sections that we have to deal with, but that's in anybody's working relationship, you have to know what you can share and what you can't share. And we've learned how to do that, and so, but it's got more positives than negatives. As my boss calls it, it's a wonder-twin powers and it's been a great opportunity to work together. What do you have?

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GOBERIS: So I think one thing that I just wanted to add, just a little thing, is that it also gives us the opportunity to get to know some of the other departments on campus a bit differently. I don't think I would have quite the understanding of Athletics if it wasn't for her. And I think the same goes for her and the working relationship with, like, Dining and Housing. I've really been able to help Athletics streamline that, understand it better, and so I think that our bosses really understand that we have that extra resource available, and they take advantage of that and I think they appreciate that. Fortunately, both Dixie and I report to the Vice President of Student Life, Dan Fox. And we are very sad to say that he is retiring after 17 years at Mines so we're going to venture on a new adventure I guess, here soon, to have a new VP and a new boss, both of us. So, looking forward to continuing our time here at Mines, and neither one of us have plans to retire anytime soon [CIRILLO nods her head in agreement] so we'll be around and here to support the students at Mines.

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CIRILLO: Yep. Go Orediggers! [GOBERIS raises her fist in agreement; CIRILLO gives a "thumbs up".]

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RAYGOZA-HEREDIA: Well, thank you so much for coming out, ladies. Is there anything you would like to add before we end?

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CIRILLO: Nope.

GOBERIS: Thank you for giving us the opportunity to –

CIRILLO: Share our story.

GOBERIS: Yep.

00:14:07

RAYGOZA-HEREDIA: Alright. Well, this concludes the session with Dixie CIRILLO and Lisa GOBERIS for the Women of Mines Oral History Project.

00:14:19

[End recording]

END OF TRANSCRIPTION

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