

SHERMAN CENTRAL SCHOOL

Wall of Fame

GRETCHEN SELFRIDGE KALAL

Inducted 2016



Gretchen Selfridge, daughter of Robert Selfridge and Joan Mary Speck, attended Sherman Central School and graduated in 1982 as class president, student council president, and a member of the National Honor Society. While growing up in Sherman she was a member of the French Creek Yorkers, the Sherman High School Band, and played on the volleyball and basketball teams. Gretchen spent her summers working at Webb's Year Round Resort in Mayville, New York as a tour guide where she was first able to put her hospitality skills to practice.

After graduation Gretchen moved to Colorado and attended Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colorado where she graduated and later moved to Fort Collins, Colorado to work in the restaurant industry. The hospitality industry moved Gretchen around to several states including Texas, Virginia, California, and the District of Columbia, but Gretchen's heart was always in Colorado. She moved back there permanently in 1990.

In 1996 Gretchen joined a then startup company by the name of Chipotle Mexican Grill that, at the time, had two restaurants in the Denver area. Gretchen quickly rose through the ranks, starting as the manager of Chipotle's second location working her way up to the position of Regional Director overseeing several states and opening over 200 restaurants a year.

In 2012 Gretchen was promoted to the position of Restaurant Support Officer and now oversees the company's more than 2000 restaurants in the United States. Under her leadership, Chipotle has grown to 65,000 employees and \$4.5 billion in annual sales, and has gone on to be the leader in the fast, casual industry for serving better food, from better ingredients, and creating a unique people culture rooted in empowering others to achieve high standards.

Gretchen was the company's first female officer, and to this day, she is the highest-ranking female in the company. She has been an inspiration to many young women across the country, and has been featured in several magazines such as *Fortune*, *Glamour* and *Cosmopolitan*.

In 2004 Gretchen married her best friend, Steven Kalal, and they reside in Evergreen, Colorado where they are avid sports fans, lovers of the outdoors, and dogs. Gretchen also serves on the board of Metro State University's Hospitality School in Denver.