From:	EA Class of 1996 Website <ea1996admin@ea1996.com>
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Our Classmates Are Leaders In Their Fields!
There are lots of examples of EA grads excelling to greatness and a few even becoming truly famous. The class of 1996 is no exception. We have friends who went from the intellectual incubator (ok... a bit of a stretch) of North Versailles to the top of their industry. And the field of talent is vast in its diversity. We have people who have become successful salesmen/women, independent business owners, corporate presidents and vice presidents, attorneys, emergency service personnel,educators/trainers, etc. Some of us have been lucky enough to turn our passions and enjoyments into careers. Again, there are lots of examples of this. But just to highlight one, you don't need to look any further than the incredibly talented Melinda Perttu (Crawford), Ph.D. A true prodigy from early childhood and a highly focused individual from day one, Melinda has been able to put her musical talent to work for her. She has many accomplishments to her credit, including prestigious performances and recordings. This week, as I write this, she's conducting a week-long training camp at Westminster College(http://melindacrawford.com/strathghenyschool.html). Most of us remember Melinda's family and very supportive & talented parents who fostered her entry into music. From piano - to bagpipes - to stringed instruments, the Crawfords in many ways provided the soundtrack of our community.

Congratulations to Melinda and to all of you for your many successes in life. You all continue to impress me two decades since we've seen each other. Your focus and resolve proves that you don't have to come from a large, rich school district to rise to the top. Talent and skill lies within the individual and there's no stopping it once it's discovered.

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