

Debbie DeJong

Athlete- Softball, Basketball
Shawnee High School Class of 1996



Named the **“1996 Shawnee High School Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year,”** Debbie DeJong was a two-sport athlete while a student at Shawnee High School, earning a total of six varsity letters; three in Softball and three in Basketball, all during her sophomore, junior and senior years. Debbie excelled in the position of Middle Infielder (Short Stop and 2nd Base) in the Shawnee Softball program and in the position of Guard in the Shawnee Basketball program.

Debbie’s Softball career led her to the All-Conference Team in 1994, 1995 and 1996, winning the League Champions in Softball during the 1994 and 1996 seasons, AP All-State 1st Team Softball (1996), First Team All-South Jersey Softball (1995, 1995, 1996) and First Team All-County Softball (1994, 1995, 1996). Throughout her athletic career, Debbie was a record setter in Hits, Homeruns, Runs Scored and RBI’s and still holds the Shawnee Softball athletic record as leader in Triples (19).

Debbie was equally successful playing for the Shawnee Girls Basketball program, setting a school record of eighty-five (85) as “Career 3-Point Leader” in 1996 and remains one of the top four Shawnee players in this category today.



Debbie attended Rutgers University and received her Undergraduate Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology (Minor in Sociology). She then attended St. John’s University and completed her graduate work with a Master’s in Elementary Education, graduating in 2000. While at Rutgers, Debbie continued to play Softball at the varsity level all four years of her collegiate career as Starting Short Stop. She was named the team Captain in her senior year. While at Rutgers, Debbie hit the 4th most Triples in the program, was the recipient of the Arthur and Reana Sudfield Academic Achievement Award, “Softball’s Greatest Hits” (1998), the Regina Seggren Loyalty Award and scored the most RBI’s in 1998 and 1999. Academically, Debbie also earned a Graduate Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University.

Debbie’s professional career included coaching Division I and II Softball at the collegiate level for 11 years and she has served in a college Athletic Administrator role for 18 years. Debbie was the first female Athletic Director at Long Island University (one of 47 female NCAA Division I Athletic Directors in the country at that time – 2017). Debbie has also served on the NCAA Regional Committees for Softball and Field Hockey and the NCAA Division I Softball Championship Committee (selects and seeds the 64-team field for the College Softball World Series). Debbie is currently the Executive Associate Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator at Stony Brook University in Long Island, NY where she also serves as the NCAA Athletics Diversity and Inclusion Designee for Stony Brook. Debbie currently lives in Oakdale, NY with her spouse Melody and son Tyler.

Congratulations on your induction, Debbie!