“*Always remember that people in places of leadership have attained their status because somebody helped them. Nobody, no matter how powerful, is self-sufficient. Try to repay your appreciation to those who make you successful on a daily basis, from the custodian at work to your spouse and children at home.”*

**Melissa Hickman Bailey**

Biographical | Awards | Accomplishments

2016

**Melissa Hickman Bailey**

*The University of North Alabama provided the keys to the doors of numerous accomplishments and opportunities afforded to me both professionally and personally. Perhaps the most essential key was an admissions counselor who spoke to me prior to graduating high school and stayed in contact to learn about my hopes, dreams, and what she could do to make them happen. I am still deeply indebted to her for guiding my steps as a first-generation college student, and providing resources to assist me in obtaining a scholarship which without would have made college an impossible feat.*

*UNA takes great care in educating the whole person from professors who take a genuine interest in their students past, present, future to occasions for networking with fellow students and prospective employers.*

*Many challenges and accomplishments have come my way since I arrived on campus in the fall of 1994. UNA provided the support and framework I needed to stay determined and focused upon my goal to work as a public servant in planning and land development.*

*I wholeheartedly believe my education and experiences as a student at the University of North Alabama gave me advantage in my career including the opportunity to work for the citizens of the great City of Florence in my ultimate dream career as the Director of Planning and Community Development. I am forever grateful.*

*Thank you, UNA, and Roar Lions!  
Melissa*

**Education**Bachelor of Science, Professional Geography, UNA 1998  
UNA Geography Club, President 1998

Certified Local Planning Official, UNA

Leadership Certificate, UNA

Geographic Information System Certificate, UNA  
Certified Geographic Information System Professional (GISP)

**Professional**City of Florence, Director of Planning and Community Development, 2003 to present

UNA, CAPZO Instructor, 2014 to present

Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments, Assistant Planning Director, 1999- 2003

Shelby County, Alabama Department of Planning and Development, 1998-1999

City of Florence, Senior Planning Intern, 1997-1998

**Professional Awards and Accolades**UNA Geography Alumni of the Year, 2011  
American Planning Association, Alabama Chapter - 2010 "Plan of the Year"

UNA Alumni Award Nominee, 2013, 2015, 2016

**Projects**2003 City of Florence – Lauderdale County Geographic Information System

2004 Downtown Florence Streetscape, Phase II

2005 Sweetwater District Plan

2006 Patton Island Overlook and Trail to Tennessee River

2007 City of Florence Master Plan

2008 River Heritage Park with Interactive Play Fountain and Cascading Fountain

2009 Brownfield Redevelopment Plan

2010 West Florence Neighborhood Plan

2016 Downtown Florence Streetscape, Phase III

2016 Downtown Florence – UNA Parking Plan  
  
**Career Related Boards, Committees**TVA Master Plan Advisory Committee, 2011-present

Shoals Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Chair

City of Florence GIS Committee, Chair  
UNA Geography Alumni Association, Treasurer, 2010 and 2011  
UNA Campus Master Plan Advisory Committee, 2009  
UNA Geography Alumni Association Annual Conference, Chair, 2008

City of Florence Walk of Honor Planning Committee, 2008  
American Planning Association, Alabama Chapter, Marketing Committee, 2007-2010  
American Planning Association, AL Chapter, Conference Planning Committee, 1999, 2007, 2013  
American Planning Association, Alabama Chapter, Webmaster 1999-2010  
Alabama Transportation Planners Association, 1999-2003  
City of Florence Board of Zoning Adjustment, 2002-2003  
Shoals Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Member 2003-present  
Shoals Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Past-Vice Chair  
American Planning Association, Alabama Chapter, Member 1999-present  
City of Florence Wayfinding Committee, Member

**Community Service**Florence Main Street Board of Directors, 2015-present

United Way of the Shoals, Trustee, 2013-present

United Way of the Shoals, Campaign Chair – Public Service, 2013

American Heart Association Relay for Life Team Co-Coordinator 2012 and 2013

**Personal and Family**

Florence HS Quarterback Club, Falcons Moms, Tennis Booster Club, and PTO

St. Joseph Catholic School Board, President, 2013-present; Secretary 2012-2013  
St. Joseph Catholic School Cheerleading Coach, 2013-2015  
St. Joseph Catholic School, PTO, President 2010-2012; Room Parent Coordinator, 2011-2016

Spouse: David B. Bailey - UNA, M.A.Ed., 1999; UNA, B.S.Ed., 1996

Son: John David (15) - Honors Student at Florence High School, UNA Early Scholar, FHS and USTA tennis, Volunteer - ECM/North Alabama Regional Medical Center

Daughter: Olivia (13) - Honors Student at St. Joseph Catholic, Xcel Silver Elite competition gymnast, St. Joseph Catholic Junior High Cheerleader and Volleyball

Hobbies: Traveling, volunteering, attending UNA and Florence HS athletic events