Sen. Gretchen Whitmer

Senate minority leader once had sights on broadcasting career, but instead embarked on groundbreaking path in Michigan politics

by Tim Anderson (tanderson@wcp.org)

As a college student, given the choice of becoming a state legislative leader or television broadcaster, Gretchen Whitmer wouldn't have hesitated on the career choice.

"I wanted to be the first woman on ESPN," she says.

But that all changed when the East Lansing native got her first up-close look at the legislative process — as a college intern working inside the state Capitol during a unique period in Michigan government when co-speakers shared power in an evenly split House.

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