

Memorial Resolution – George Chester Kliminski
December 10, 1941 – February 15, 2019

Dr. George Chester Kliminski, emeritus clinical professor, dedicated over 25 years to the department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. His work focused on community education, school-community relations, and preparing graduate students for leadership roles in K-12 education. Additionally, he served as the department's coordinator of recruitment and admissions; led the development of off-campus degree and administrator certification programs in LaCrosse, Oshkosh, and Whitewater; and served as the department and School of Education liaison to several state professional organizations. With his significant contributions and passionate mentorship of students, Dr. Kliminski left a significant legacy in the department, the School of Education, and education leadership community.

Dr. Kliminski served as President of the National Community Education Association, and in 2003 was inducted into the Community Education Hall of Fame as a Charter Member. For more than two decades, his teaching anchored the preparation sequence for future principals and district administrators. He was a frequent presenter at state conferences and seminars, and continuously encouraged leaders and promising leaders to pursue graduate study and professional development. Emblematic of his passion for serving the field, the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators honored him in 2000 with a Special Recognition for Service to Wisconsin. Additionally, he received the School of Education's Ann Wallace Academic Staff Distinguished Achievement Award.

Dr. Kliminski personified the Wisconsin Idea. He understood and valued education as a social process in which learning, schools and communities are inextricably linked. He was a visible presence in countless Wisconsin schools, and enjoyed personal relationships with hundreds of students, teachers, administrators, and school boards. He believed that community engagement is the hallmark of successful schools, communities, and universities. Dr. George Kliminski made a difference by placing public education the heart of the community.

George was born in Thorp, Wisconsin. He served in the Navy 1960-1963 and spent a year in the Antarctic as part of Operation Deep Freeze. He completed his undergraduate studies at University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse where he played football and was named MVP in 1966 as one of the last "Iron Men" able to play both offense and defense. He completed a master's degree at Northern Michigan University and his doctoral degree at Western Michigan University. George retired from the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin - Madison in 2000 and transitioned into consultation work in South Carolina.

The Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis extends our sincerest condolences to George's family and friends.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Jerlando F. L. Jackson, Vilas Distinguished Professor of Higher Education, Department Chair - Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, and Director & Chief Research Scientist - Wisconsin's Equity & Inclusion Laboratory.