

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS MERLE E. STRONG

Merle E. Strong, PhD, professor emeritus in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis and director emeritus of the Center on Education and Work, was born in Deerfield, Ohio in 1923 and passed away on July 22, 2008 at the age of 84. He had a full and genuinely meaningful life as an academician, educational leader, world traveler, husband, and father of eight children.

Professor Strong received his BS (1948) and MEd (1951) in industrial education from Kent State University and his PhD (1958) in trade and industrial education from the Ohio State University. He began his post-doctoral service at the U.S. Office of Education in 1959 as a specialist in the Teacher Training and Research Division of the Vocational and Technical Education Branch. Subsequently, he served as assistant director and director of the Program Services Branch from 1964-68 before accepting a faculty appointment in the then-Department of Educational Administration at UW-Madison.

His professional life was accented by many notable achievements. Perhaps the most lasting of these are his exceptional mentoring of many graduate students and his published body of professional and research literature on the foundations and administrative practice in two allied fields: trade and industrial education and vocational-technical education.

His national and international presence in vocational and technical education was marked by his appointment to several national commissions and committees to examine policies and practices for vocational-technical teacher education, military training curricula, school safety, career education, and services for persons with disabilities. In 1972, he was elected president of the National Association of Industrial and Technical Teacher Educators. The American Vocational Association recognized his exemplary contributions with the 1985 Outstanding Service Award.

Professor Strong was passionate about improving the policies guiding vocational-technical education at both the high school and post-secondary education level. To that end, he authored and co-authored a number of studies for the Wisconsin Technical College System, Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Advisory Council on Vocational Education guiding the expansion of vocational education programs in rural Wisconsin and, among other topics, improvements in services for populations with special needs.

Throughout his career he was internationally recognized for his leadership on vocational and technical education programs in developing countries. He served as a consultant and lead advisor for the World Bank, U.S. Agency for International Development, and governmental agencies in Iran, Pakistan, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, and Jamaica. As testimony to the scholarly dimension of his international service, he served as an editor for the International Vocational Education and Training Association.

Dr. Strong is survived by his wife, Ruth, and seven adult children and their families. He is greatly missed by colleagues at the center and in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis for his comparative research, kind and gentle spirit, guidance and mentoring, and by the education community worldwide.

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