

**Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
on the Death of Professor Emeritus Herbert J. Klausmeier**

Dr. Herbert J. Klausmeier, esteemed scholar, educational innovator, and V.A.C. Henmon Professor Emeritus of Educational Psychology, died on May 20, 2014 at the age of 98. He devoted his professional life to designing programs to improve elementary and secondary education.

Born in rural Indiana, Dr. Klausmeier graduated from high school at age 15 (one of 6 students in his class). He attended Indiana State University, then taught high school for several years and served as a Navy lieutenant in World War II before completing his E.Ed. at Stanford University. Herb was on the faculty of the University of Northern Colorado for three years before joining the University of Wisconsin faculty in 1952, where he remained until his retirement in 1986.

A prolific researcher and commentator on educational issues, Klausmeier authored or co-authored 17 scholarly volumes and textbooks (many of which went through several editions) and over 100 articles in edited volumes, scholarly journals, or practitioner journals. His research spanned several aspects of children's learning, but he was best known for developing methods of instruction known as individually guided education (IGE). In this major alternative to traditional curricula and educational practices of the era (1960s), the curriculum is divided into smaller units that can be honed to meet the needs of individual students, who can proceed with learning at their own paces. The approach involves team teaching and rigorous evaluation of students' progress and curriculum efficacy. Several aspects of IGE have become standard practice in elementary and secondary schools across the nation. More generally, his research on the cognitive underpinnings and instructional strategies that can promote academic learning in a variety of disciplines, reverberates across a half century in training graduate students, supporting faculty, and creating nationally prominent models of instructional approaches for teaching and learning in the areas of reading and literacy, mathematics, social studies, and science. Herb arranged for royalties from the sale of IGE curriculum materials to be directed toward an endowed professorship within the School of Education (Sears Bascom Professorship).

Unlike most educational researchers of his day, who conducted their studies in research labs on college campuses, Klausmeier insisted that research be conducted in classrooms. He inspired several generations of researchers to apply this "real world" approach to their own work, making it much easier to bring their well tested ideas to scale on a statewide or national level. Among those whom he inspired were his own graduate students, 35 of whom received a doctoral degree under his guidance. Because much of his research was derived from problems that teachers encountered in their classrooms, it was inherently "translational," making it literally decades ahead of its time.

In the early 1960s Dr. Klausmeier convinced the federal government to provide funding for a major research center on educational issues and partial funding for a building to house its activities. For 8 years, he served as Co-Director or Director of the Wisconsin Research and Development Center for Cognitive Learning. Today, the Educational Sciences building is often referred to as the "house that Klausmeier built." The center that Herb helped found, now known as the Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER), continues as one of the world's foremost centers for research in all aspects of education. Having just celebrated its 50th

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anniversary, WCER now houses over 400 scholars and receives more than \$50 million annually from federal and state agencies and private foundations.

Among the many honors and awards that Klausmeier received for his work, perhaps the most notable is the E. L. Thorndike Award for Distinguished Psychological Contribution to Education, from the American Psychological Association in 1991. He also received accolades earlier in his career from the American Educational Research Association, the Association for Individually Guided Education, and the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators. Herb was a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and recipient of an Alumni Distinguished Service Award from Indiana State University.

Herb was passionate about devoting his life's work to giving others advantages he himself received through education. In 2003, he and Mrs. Klausmeier initiated a scholarship program at Indiana State University that is providing scholarships annually for one to three needy, high achieving students committed to becoming teachers.

Herb's retirement years were spent in San Diego, California, and then Farmington Hills, Michigan. He continued his work on educational issues, along with time gardening, golfing, traveling, and most of all, enjoying his family.

Professor Klausmeier is survived by his wife of 67 years, Iyla Johnson Klausmeier; a daughter, Connie Klausmeier Hutchinson; her husband, Marshall Hutchinson Jr.; grandchildren, Jesse Marie and Travis Klausmeier and Christopher and Ashley Hutchinson; and two sisters.

Respectfully submitted by the Memorial Resolution Committee:

B. Bradford Brown, *Chair*

Robert Enright

Richard Rossmiller