

Kenneth J. Preble, Jr.

1927 - 1994

PROFESSOR OF EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION, EMERITUS

B.A., University of Miami; M.A., Ph.D., Educational Administration,
University of Chicago, December, 1962
California State University, Fullerton From September 1, 1963 to July 2, 1991
Birth: July 14, 1927; Death: February 20, 1994

Dr. Jack Preble was a member of the California State University, Fullerton, Department of Educational Administration for twenty-eight years. He was a scholar, teacher, a devoted family man, and a person who cared.

Jack cared about people; this was always apparent to his students and his colleagues. To him, each student's career was a unique slice of life that was always important. Each one grew from his counseling and nurturing. His caring went well beyond his usual graduate students to the young and underprivileged students that he worked with in the Upward Bound Program. Through Jack's help many of these Upward Bound students became outstanding leaders in our society.

The many lifetime successes of the Upward Bound students were just as important to Jack as the many outstanding principals and superintendents that he mentored. He had the ability of being warm and friendly, and at the same time demanding the most of each student's potential. His students not only thanked him for his caring, but for his quality of motivating them to their highest standards. By the time the students finished their programs they were convinced that his standards were a form of love.

Late in Jack's career, he decided to become involved in a new and different educational venture, one which took a different turn in the approach to educational administration. Through training and work with a national organization he became the associate director of one of fifty national assessment centers for educational administrators. He did this through a great expenditure of his personal time, just because he felt it would create worthwhile experiences for school administrators. Needless to say, he became one of the national experts in this field.

Jack, a longtime Fullerton resident, joined the faculty at California State University, Fullerton, in 1963 as an assistant professor of educational administration, following a seven-year career as an elementary and junior high school principal in Illinois and California. These early years as a school administrator helped him understand not only the fundamentals of the profession, but the need for great compassion in working with young persons.

While at Fullerton, he moved through the faculty ranks and became a professor and chairman of the department of educational administration. During his twenty eight years at the university, he developed new courses, expanded the curriculum, and guided the growth of the department. He authored two books on educational administration, wrote many journal

articles, and developed textual materials for graduate students. He was most proud of his simulation materials, because the students, even many years after they had finished their degrees and credentials, expressed their appreciation for the excellent preparation these gave them for the "real world."

Jack worked long and hard for the advancement of female and minority administrators in the field of education. He personally recruited underrepresented persons into the administration program and then demanded that they excel in their field. Through his leadership and efforts many women and minorities became outstanding educators in California.

"The Chicago White Sox are going to win next year." These were always the words from Jack. And though they rarely won, he never gave up hope. He always had a bit of his hometown, Chicago, in him. As a loyal Sox fan he never converted to the cross town rivals, the Cubs.

Later in life, Jack discovered a geographical area quite the opposite of his native Chicagoland. The area was Montana, where he would spend a good part of his summers fishing, reflecting, and writing. He not only enjoyed the beauty of the area, but the interaction with people from small town America.

Jeanne Preble, Jack's wife of 43 years, supported and encouraged Jack in his many university and community endeavors. Jack was always proud of her work as a therapist who not only had her own practice, but was involved in many community projects. One of the single proudest moments for Jack was the celebration of their fortieth wedding anniversary, which was attended by hundreds of their friends and relatives.

During his many years in the department, it was rare for Jack not to proudly relate stories about his children, Deborah, Kimberley, and John. The five Preble grandchildren brought great joy into his life. His family came first and foremost in Jack's priorities.

Jack Preble has left a legacy for the university and the department - above all, care about people.

Submitted by
Walter F. Beckman
Professor of Educational Administration
June 28, 1995