Dr. Fred McFarlane 2008 Outstanding Alumnus

Dr. Fred McFarlane graduated from Beaver Dam High School in 1963. He attended the University of Wisconsin at Stout where he received his Bachelor's degree in 1967 in Industrial Education and his Master's degree in 1968 in Rehabilitation with emphasis in Vocational Evaluation. In 1972, he received his Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling from the University of Georgia and became a professor at San Diego State University, where he currently serves as a Professor in Rehabilitation Counseling.

He is internationally respected and has presented lectures and speeches at local, state, regional, national and international conferences and seminars on topics ranging from education development to performance management, and from ADA to disability management. He also has published over 50 journal articles, monographs, and chapters. In addition, he founded a center on rehabilitation and eventually developed the Interwork Institute, which focuses on promoting the integration of all individuals, including those with disabilities, into all aspects of education, work, family, and community life. The Institute conducts research in universal design, rehabilitation technology, policy development in higher education and transition approaches from K-12 to the community.

Dr. McFarlane has developed national and international programs for supervisors, managers, and senior administrators in rehabilitation. In addition, he has directed undergraduate and graduate education programs in the Pacific Basin of which many of the graduates are leaders in their island community. At present, he is working with the community colleges in Palau and Micronesia to enable current K-12 teachers to earn their undergraduate degree in education. He has also worked with practitioners, educators, administrators, and policy makers in over 35 countries. Currently, his efforts include two projects in Afghanistan in the fields of technology, English language development, and engineering. His work in Afghanistan is unique and challenging in light of the political instabilities and significant lack of formal education.

Among the numerous leadership positions he has held at San Diego State University, Dr. McFarlane currently serves as the Chair of the Department of Administration, Rehabilitation and Postsecondary Education and he has been instrumental in the development of the M.A. in Leadership for Student Affairs, Community College Teaching and Postsecondary Education Leadership. Also, he directs the Doctorate in Education for Educational Leadership for community college and postsecondary education faculty, staff, and administrators. In addition, he has been actively involved in state, national, and international education programs. He served on the Reagan Transition Team for the U.S. Department of Education and was the Global Chair of the Commission on Work and Employment Rehabilitation International. He has also been a consultant and trainer with the European Platform for Rehabilitation, which represents 15 European countries.

Dr. McFarlane has achieved numerous accomplishments and has been honored with several recognitions. The recognitions include the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, Outstanding Faculty Member in the College of Education at San Diego State University, and he was chosen as the Outstanding Professor by the Department's outstanding graduate.