

Resolution in Memoriam
Kenneth N. Fishell
Professor Emeritus, College of Education and Social Services
1932 – 2019

Presented by Charles Rathbone
Professor Emeritus, College of Education and Social Services

Kenneth N. Fishell, Emeritus Professor of Education in the College of Education and Social Services (CESS), passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 18, 2019, surrounded by his family.

Ken was a lifelong learner and educator who grew up attending a one-room schoolhouse five mile from his family's farm in Rush, NY. He graduated from high school at the age of 15 and went on to receive a bachelor's degree from SUNY Brockport and a doctorate in education from the University of Rochester. His early career in education included experiences as an elementary teacher in Newark, New York and principal of an elementary school in Henrietta, New York. He began his career in higher education at the University of Rochester, where he served in a Master of Arts in Teaching program and the Teacher Center sites founded by the Ford Foundation. He accepted the position of Associate Professor of Education at Syracuse University, where he helped to develop the Department of Educational Technology, and joined the University of Vermont in the early 1970s as Professor of Education and Associate Dean of the College of Education and Social Services. During his tenure at UVM, Ken held a variety of leadership positions, including Interim Dean of CESS, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Senior Associate Vice President under President Lattie Coor.

Ken was a true teacher-scholar, whose service to UVM was characterized by his deep sense of caring for his students, colleagues, and the institution. The many leadership roles he held within CESS and in the President's Office speak to the confidence and respect others had for his calm and supportive leadership style. He served as a major advisor for dozens of doctoral students, all of whom treasured his gentle and encouraging approach and his willingness to make time for them, no matter what the circumstance or time. He taught multiple courses in the undergraduate Secondary Education program and Master of Arts in Teaching program, in the areas of effective instructional strategies, educational technology, action research, and foundations of education. Ken's dedication to the field and to the importance of ensuring high quality education in rural schools was evidenced by his participation in the Vermont School Development Institute, an annual summer institute that brought students, teachers, and community members together to solve problems of practice and improve their schools.

Ken's colleagues remember him for his passions outside of work as well, including his love of baseball, the Celtics, woodworking, picture framing and above all, helping others. He was a beloved husband, father, colleague, and friend whose steady leadership and service will not be forgotten.

