

Resolution in Memoriam
Dean Charles Corrigan, Professor and Dean
College of Education and Social Services
Presented by Bud Meyers, Professor of Education Emeritus
March 28, 2022

We are sad to report that Dean Charles Corrigan, our dear colleague and former Dean of the College of Education and Social Services, passed away on November 7th, 2021, in Middlebury, Vermont.

Born and raised in Gorham, New Hampshire, Dr. Corrigan (Dean), completed his undergraduate studies at Keene State College and later received a in doctorate in education from Columbia University. After college he served in the Army and helped create the Army's first Teaching English as a Second Language Program for Puerto Rican officers.

Dean helped create the World of Inquiry School in Rochester New York when he served as Dean at the University of Rochester. He later served as Dean of the College of Education at the University of Maryland, and concluded his academic life as Professor and Dean Emeritus and First Holder of the Harrington Endowed Chair in Educational Leadership at Texas A&M University.

He developed a strong and lasting connection to Vermont when he served as Dean of the College of Education and Social Services at the University of Vermont from 1968-1979. He became a national leader as President of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and Chair of the National Commission on Leadership in Interprofessional Education. He published over one hundred scholarly books, articles, and reports, many of which focused on the imaginative preparation of leaders to construct a peaceful and just world. In 2015, over three hundred of his papers were consigned to the Howe Library Special Collections.

Dean Corrigan was committed to the holistic, humane, and just provision of educational and social services. In his first three years as Dean of CESS, he hired over 40 new faculty and established many new program areas. When he arrived in the early 1970's he soon hired four African-American faculty. He said to President Andrews and Professor McCrorey, "I cannot teach teachers with an all-white male faculty." As the college grew and thrived, Dean's commitment to interprofessional collaboration resulted in expansion of the college beyond teacher preparation to include social work and early childhood education. His colleagues and friends remember him as a kind and generous man, one of boundless energy, enthusiasm for student centered learning, and commitment to serving those in greatest need. At the same time, he spoke out forcefully against corporal punishment in Vermont schools and supported faculty who protested the Vietnam War. A progressive and caring leader, Dean was passionate about education and believed that the integration of education and social services was crucial to affording access and opportunity to all communities.