

MACRAO Honorary Member

Mike Owens

It is our privilege to recognize Mike Owens as he is made an honorary member of MACRAO. Mike lives by the motto “CANI” (constant-and-never-ending- improvement). He was an innovator and visionary in the field of enrollment management and has time and time again demonstrated his commitment to higher education at both the state and national levels. He served as President of MACRAO, chaired the College Articulation Committee, College Day/Night Committee, and served on the Enrollment Management Committee. Mike received a grant from AACRAO that funded the offering of timely professional



seminars on “Leadership Development”. These two-day pre-conference sessions were extremely popular at the annual AACRAO conferences for numerous years.

In many ways Mike Owens was the “renaissance man” for this organization. He was instrumental in strategically moving our conferences from university, campus-based settings to hotels and resorts, thereby enhancing membership attendance and participation. He made a calculated decision to revamp the College Day/Night annual calendar to what it has become today and was passionate on articulation issues, including the MACRAO Agreement, easing the transferability of students from community college to universities.

Mike has enjoyed a distinguished career as a director of university admissions before being promoted to Associate Dean of Students at CMU, and has achieved many years of success in administration and leadership. He was a visionary before his time in implementing strategic enrollment management (SEM), before it became one of the main slogans of our profession. As a supervisor, he garnered the respect of staff and faculty alike, always leading by example— a wonderful facilitator!

This organization will long be the beneficiary of Mike’s talents, insights, and expertise. He continually counsels that “every day should be better than the previous one”. And his CANI spirit spread into everything he touched; every program, every presentation, every publication, and every freshman class should be better than the previous one.

While Mike has experienced an outstanding administrative career at Central Michigan University, and has given so much to this organization, from Mike's perspective, it has never been about Mike. Rather, his professional interactions and service have emphasized the progress of institutions and organizations much larger than himself and all of this has been achieved in the context of university student success.

Mike retired from CMU in 2010 and lives in Mecosta, Michigan with his wife, Pam. All three of his sons live in Colorado. One of Mike's greatest achievements in life is the fact that he not only had all three of his sons graduate from CMU but he personally handed each of them their college diploma as they walked across the commencement stage.

As was noted earlier, Mike was never one to tout or boast of his own accomplishments. When Mike retired from CMU last year he chose to not have a retirement reception in honor of his career. Instead he handwrote more than 100 person notes to every staff member in his division. On his last day at CMU he simply packed up his desk, turned off the lights, and delivered these notes as he left campus for the last time. That is why Mike is not here to accept this award from MACRAO. In his mind it's not about him it's all about his students and their success.

All of our members have been, directly or indirectly, enriched by Mike's contributions to MACRAO and AACRAO and we therefore extend heart-felt congratulations to Mike Owens as he receives this honorary membership!

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Dwyer
Dan Eversole