

In Memoriam: Dr. Jay L. Tontz

Dr. Jay Logan Tontz, former Dean of the College of Business & Economics, passed away on November 14, 2019, at the age of 81 years old.

In 1969, Dr. Tontz started at California State University, Hayward, as an Economics professor then became the Chairman of the Economics Department from 1972-73.

In 1973 he became the Acting Dean and then became the third Dean of the college from 1974 until 2003.

Serving for 30 years, Dr. Tontz was the most tenured Business Dean in the U.S. at the time.

He was instrumental in the development and growth of the College of Business & Economics and continued teaching as a professor emeritus for CSUEB until 2008.

Economics was Dr. Tontz's primary research focus, and his work also extended into establishing American MBA programs in Moscow, Austria, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

In a 2007 interview from Cal State East Bay Magazine, Dr. Tontz spoke of the economic potential in the Bay Area. "The Bay Area, specifically the East Bay, is a more dynamic economic engine than the rest of the country for a number of reasons. We have much better climate. We don't have snow days that shut us down. In terms of economic climate, we have a much larger concentration of venture capital here, therefore, much more support for the start up and growing of new technology and new industries."

Click here to read the full article on pg 10-11.

http://www.csueastbay.edu/news/files/pdf/CSUEB_magazine_spring_2007.pdf

Many of our current faculty have fond memories of Dr. Tontz. "The last year of Jay's FERP, 2007-2008, was the year I applied to CSUEB, so I had the honor of meeting him as a job candidate during my flyouts" says Jed DeVaro, Economics Chair. "We sat at the round table in my office, which at that time was his office. Many if not most of the CBE faculty whose tenure exceeds mine were hired under Jay's deanship, and I leave it to them to expound his legacy."

"Although I never had the pleasure of meeting Dean Tontz, stories of his distinguished 30-year tenure as dean and the legacy of academic excellence and innovation that he built are woven tightly into the fabric of the College and the University." says Dr. George Low, the 9th and current Dean for CBE. "We will always be grateful for the culture of collegiality that he established and the impact of his service as dean and faculty member. We send our most sincere condolences to his family and friends."

On behalf of all the current faculty and staff at the College of Business & Economics, we extend our deepest condolences to the Tontz family.

We express deep gratitude for all of the groundwork that has been laid by Dr. Tontz and the legacy that he leaves behind not only for the College of Business & Economics, but for Cal State East Bay.

Memorial donations can be made in Jay's name to the San Ramon Rotary Foundation. Please write Jay Tontz in memo. Mail to:

San Ramon Rotary
c/o Jeff Disch
738 Paradise Valley Ct. N.
Danville, CA 94526-6244