



President Emerita Norma Rees

Dear Colleagues,

With great sorrow I share with you the news that former University President Norma Rees passed away Thursday, June 6, 2013. On the occasion of her passing, I want to take a moment to remember Dr. Rees and all that she did to help make Cal State East Bay the wonderful, transformative institution it is today.

Dr. Rees and I met over 15 years ago and during the past two years we became closer as we talked about the bright future of our university. I was honored to have her participate in my Investiture ceremony last fall; and I know she particularly enjoyed seeing many of you throughout that day.

As one of the first women to serve as president at a CSU campus, Dr. Rees took office in July 1990 and led the University for 16 years. She came to then-Cal State Hayward from the Massachusetts Board of Regents of Higher Education where she had been the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Policy and Planning, following her work in higher education in Wisconsin and New York City.

She earned her Baccalaureate of Arts degree from Queens College, her Master of Arts degree from Brooklyn College in speech pathology and audiology, and her Ph.D. in speech from New York University. While she was president, Dr. Rees also was a member of the faculty in the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders in the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences.

Her influence during her tenure as president was substantive. Under Dr. Rees, the University added the first new buildings on the Hayward campus since 1971. She led the development of Pioneer Heights and the New University Union, and championed the fundraising for the Wayne and Gladys Valley Business and Technology Center. Dr. Rees also expanded the Concord Campus and opened the Oakland Professional Development and Conference Center in 2001.

As the University expanded its program and initiatives in both Alameda and Contra Costa counties, it was Dr. Rees who led the initiative to change the name of Cal State Hayward to more accurately reflect the University's engagement as a regional-serving institution to set a pioneering path for a new century embracing the entire East Bay community. In January 2005, the CSU Board of Trustees voted unanimously to change our name to California State University, East Bay.

Following Dr. Rees' retirement as president in 2006, she remained very active in the Hayward community as an emerita president and faculty member and continued to tirelessly support, promote, and enjoy Cal State East Bay.

We are fortunate to have benefited from Dr. Rees' leadership and the legacy she has left for Cal State East Bay. In honor of Dr. Rees' memory, I have asked that the University flag be flown at half-staff for one week. When Dr. Rees' family is able to provide information regarding their plans and how we might honor her, we will share this with the campus community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leroy M. Morishita". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L".

Leroy M. Morishita

President