

DAVID DODDS HENRY

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



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THE CEREMONY

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Stanley O. Ikenberry
President, University of Illinois

REMARKS

Ralph C. Hahn of Springfield
Trustee, 1966-present

UIC Professor Pierson J. Van Alten
Chair, University Senates Conference

David Kirk Henry and Joel Henry
Grandsons of David Dodds Henry

FORMAL REDESIGNATION

George W. Howard III of Mt. Vernon
President, University Board of Trustees

FROM NAPLES, FLORIDA

David Dodds Henry
12th President, University of Illinois, 1955-71

ADJOURN



THE TRIBUTE

On February 19, 1987, in Naples, Florida, University of Illinois President Stanley O. Ikenberry delivered the following statement regarding the significance of David Dodds Henry's leadership:

David Dodds Henry, the 12th president of the University of Illinois, is among a handful of strong, insightful national leaders who have helped shape higher education in America as we now know it. The name of David Henry stands along with those of Clark Kerr, John Hannah and others who provided the vision essential to transform the American land-grant universities into the towers of strength we know today.

David Henry and his peers were central actors during the decades following World War II, a period of unprecedented growth and creative fervor. This was a time when the programs of universities were trying desperately to match the needs, ideals and expectations of the Nation. This was the time when the land-grant university gained recognition as a mature, leading force in American higher education.

To have lived and served during that period of remarkable change was a heady experience; to have shaped that change, however, and to have guided and directed it in response to the American Dream is a contribution few can claim.

Others have had much to say about David Henry. Clark Kerr has observed: "I know of no one, in all of the history of higher education in the United States, who has served higher education in so many capacities and has been called to the top position of leadership in so many organizations engaged in furthering the welfare of higher education."



Dr. Kerr went on: Under David Henry's guidance, the University of Illinois took many strides that "have had national significance: the creation of the Chicago Circle campus as a model for urban universities everywhere; the establishment of experimental new clinical medical schools...expansion of programs for the visual and performing arts...extension of the library system...and the creation of the PLATO system as the most advanced in the Nation in the use of computers for instructional purposes."

Clark Kerr also observed that each of these strides "served the future even more than it did the present," one of the most exacting tests that can be made of the leadership of any university president. Building for future generations is a test David Dodds Henry passes with flying colors.

Why was David Henry able to accomplish so much? Circumstance, of course, played a part. His was a time of great challenge and change in America and, therefore, a time that brought forth the best in its leaders. David Henry regarded academic administration as a discipline itself, a formidable intellectual challenge. One might say that while Dr. Henry's "field" was English, academic administration was his discipline.

Values also played a role in Dr. Henry's success. David Henry helped higher education and the University of Illinois clarify and nurture a sound set of values that guided our programs and priorities, and our service to society.

"Universities," Dr. Henry said, "are first of all and primarily people, people dedicated to learning, teaching and discovery. Their most important tools are books, and the means of communication and experimentation. Equally important is a place to meet, space organized to facilitate learning, teaching, discovery."



In countless ways, he helped others understand that the University of Illinois, at its heart, is people, ideas and the quest for discovery.

David Henry's success is also explained by the fact that he was and remains a hard worker and keen observer. During his years as president of the University, the presidency was not just a full-time occupation, it was a life's work. The progress of the University reflected that devotion.

Dr. Henry was and remains a keen observer, as well. When others saw in fragments, he was able to see the world in perspective and to assess what was happening not only in universities, but in society, too. The world of tomorrow is now with us in all its complexity; the benefit of time tells us Dr. Henry's vision served us ably.

Midway through his tenure at Illinois, David Henry wrote to the University community: "It is readily apparent that the future is now and that there is no time to lose." If he were president of the University of Illinois today, I suspect he would counsel us in precisely the same terms: The future is now; get moving.

The 16 years of the Henry presidency at the University of Illinois were a fine blend of interpreting the University's past while also building toward the University's future. David Henry defined a new harmony between the University of Illinois and the society it serves. Nearly 16 years have passed since his retirement from the presidency, and yet, in the main, the course he set remains the course we travel today.

David Henry's vision for the future of the University of Illinois was to provide programs of the highest quality in response to the needs of society and the times in which we live. Universities should be characterized, he said,



by “resilience in dealing with new institutional ideas; a spirit for experimentation, a capacity for innovation, and a continuing search for improvement.”

David Dodds Henry taught us that a university never seeks the finishing touch. A great university evolves; it yearns to be better, and it constantly seeks to construct strong new pillars grounded upon old and firm foundations.

In doing all of this, David Henry was not timid in telling Illinois and America there was a price. A quarter-century ago, David Henry said, “Everyone must get into the act to make America aware of education’s top place in the list of priorities. We need the help of every person who has a stake in higher education — professional men and women, business people, homemakers, political leaders, civic agencies. It’s going to take a concerted effort on the part of everybody to help us recruit able students, keep able teachers and turn out able graduates.”

Although 25 years old, those words could just as easily appear tomorrow on the editorial pages of the *Tribune*, the *Sun-Times* or the *News-Gazette*. David Henry gave a vision of learning and hope to the people of Illinois and America. He served on three national commissions: the President’s Committee on Education Beyond the High School; the Carnegie Commission on the Future of Higher Education; and the Carnegie Commission on Educational Television. He was only one of only a few educators to head each of the most influential national organizations in higher education: the American Council on Education; the Association of American Universities; the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; the National Commission on Accrediting; and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.



In each case, his leadership of these national organizations marked a period of new achievement. He guided each group and, therefore, our Nation through special circumstances. He created a new harmony with the times. In the end, education in America was a better, more effective instrument in shaping the character and meeting the needs of our Nation and its people.

A leader must dream dreams to make the world a better place. David Dodds Henry dreamed big dreams. He gave us extraordinary leadership during his years in the presidency. His distinctive imprint on American education and the University of Illinois remains strong and apparent.

On behalf of the University community, our alumni and friends, and our faculty and students, I wish to pay tribute to Dr. Henry. In lasting recognition of David Dodds Henry's service to Illinois and our Nation, I wish to announce my intent to recommend to the board of Trustees that the name of the Administration Building on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign be changed to become, henceforth, the David Dodds Henry Administration Building. I have every reason to believe the trustees will receive this recommendation with the same great pleasure I make it.

On March 12, 1987, President Ikenberry carried out his intention:

Accordingly, in view of this unparalleled record of dedicated service and leadership to the University and to all of higher education, and with the enthusiastic concurrence of the officers of the University, it is my great pleasure to recommend that the Administration Building at the Urbana campus henceforth be designated the "David Dodds Henry Administration Building."

The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois unanimously approved President Ikenberry's recommendation.



THE BUILDING

The Administration Building was built in two major pieces.

The east, or Quadrangle wing, was built in 1912-13 as a free-standing Commerce Building. The College of Commerce and Business Administration vacated the east wing in 1925 for its new building south of the Library.

The west wing was built in 1914-15 as the Administration Building, parallel to the Commerce Building and connected to it by an existing one-story lecture room. President Edmund Janes James (1904-20), moved from the second floor of the overcrowded Natural History Building to the new Wright Street building in 1915.

A four-story addition was constructed on the south side of the Administration Building in 1964.

By action of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees on March 12, 1987, the Administration Building at 506 South Wright Street in Urbana, Illinois, was redesignated the David Dodds Henry Administration Building.

The ceremony to pay tribute to David Dodds Henry and celebrate the building redesignation was held at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, October 31, 1987.