



Citrus Community College District
1000 W. Foothill Blvd., Glendora, CA 91741

eMEMO
Office of the Superintendent/President
Greg Schulz, Ed.D.

Dear Citrus College Family,

It is with great sadness that I write to you this morning. Trustee Edward C. Ortell, J.D., passed away over the weekend at the age of 82.

Dr. Ortell served on the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees for more than 50 years and was honored in 2020 for being the longest-serving community college trustee in California.

Originally elected to the college's governing board in 1969, Dr. Ortell represented Trustee Area 3, which encompasses Duarte and portions of Azusa, Monrovia, Arcadia, Covina and Irwindale.

Prior to Dr. Ortell's election, the Citrus Junior College District expanded to include students from Claremont, Duarte and Monrovia. Soon after he took office, the district was renamed the Citrus Community College District to reflect the college's evolving role.

Dr. Ortell helped to provide vision and guidance at Citrus College. The student population has doubled over the last 50 years, increasing from 10,000 students enrolled in the 1970s to the approximately 20,000 students enrolled today. Additional areas of growth during Dr. Ortell's tenure included the expansion of student services, an increase in the rates of students transferring to four-year colleges and universities, the introduction of new vocational education programs, and the construction of many new buildings, such as the Haugh Performing Arts Center.

As a trustee, Dr. Ortell held all board offices, including more than 10 terms as board president. He also served on other boards and associations, including the California Community College Trustees Board, the California Master Plan for Education Task Force and the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association.

A professor emeritus of business and computer technology at Pasadena City College, Dr. Ortell authored two college textbooks on mathematics and received several National Science Foundation grants. He was also the former executive director of the Pasadena Education Association. Additional honors include receiving the CBS anchor Ralph Story Service Award, the Community College Association We Honor Ours Award and the Duarte Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Civic Service Award.

Though I only had the pleasure of working with Dr. Ortell for a few months, I was struck with how gracious he was with his time to help me become acclimated with Citrus College and his trustee area. He went out of his way to make me feel welcome, and I am grateful to have known him. My thoughts and condolences go out to Dr. Ortell's family, including our colleagues Brenda Fink and Cliff Wurst. Please know that the Citrus College community is here for you both.

Memorial service details are not known at this time, but will be shared when more information becomes available.