MEMORIAL RESOLUTION  
WILLIAM A. JENKINS

William A. Jenkins, former associate dean of education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, died of pneumonia at Columbia Hospital on January 20, 1998. He was 75 years old.

Bill was born November 18, 1922, in Scranton, PA, and received a bachelor’s degree in education and the teaching of English from New York University. Subsequently, he earned an M.S. and Ph.D., both from the University of Illinois, and began his thirty-five (35) year university teaching career at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee when he joined the English Department as an Assistant Professor in the fall of 1953. According to Harold Rose, professor emeritus of geography, Jenkins was the first African American faculty member to be hired at the UWM. He was promoted to Associate Professor of English and Education with a joint L&S and Education appointment in 1955 and was promoted to Full Professor in 1961. While with us at UWM, Bill served as chairperson of the Department of Secondary Education, he served as Secretary of the UWM faculty for three (3) years [1958-61]; Associate Dean and Director of Teacher Education and Graduate Studies [1963-70]; and Acting Dean of the School of Education [1968-69].

Bill was a specialist in English, language arts and reading. He authored three (3) school textbooks and authored or co-authored thirty-eight (38) scholarly articles. He also served as a consultant for the Ford Foundation, the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, NJ and Compton’s Encyclopedia. He was president of the 140,000 - member National Council of Teachers of English [1968-69] and he was editor of the Council’s journal for seven (7) years.

Bill Jenkins believed everyone should have the opportunity to attend college and he devoted his career to broadening opportunities for students to attend college.

“He was the most thoughtful person I’ve ever known,” says Alice, his wife of twenty-three (23) years. “He was very compassionate and always concerned about others. He would try to help them with either their career problems or their personal problems.”

Bill left UWM in 1970 and went on to become Dean of the School of Education in Portland State University in Portland; Vice President for Academic Affairs, Florida International University in Miami; Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Chancellor, University of Colorado in Denver; and Chancellor, University of Michigan-Dearborn. At the Dearborn campus he spend considerable time in achieving financial stability for the young urban university; promoting public awareness of the campus; developing facilities, services and programs to round out the campus’s growing programs; and enlarging extra-mural support, alumni participation, and graduate programs, especially in Engineering, Business and Education. During his tenure extra-mural support from grew $80,000 to $2.4 million annually.
Bill retired as Professor and Chancellor Emeritus from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 1988 and he and his wife, Alice, moved to Brookfield.

In addition to his wife Alice, Bill Jenkins is survived by a son, William, of Racine; a daughter, Darcy, of Los Angeles; a brother, Tom; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Bill was man of caring grace and integrity. He will be missed by those who were privileged to know him and to work with him.

Resolution Committee Members:

Carlton Beck
Richard Cummings

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