



Michigan Association
of Community and
Adult Education

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Patrick Brown, Director

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Re: Honoring K. Hugh Rohrer

MACAE is sad to announce that we learned this week of the passing of past member and lifelong educator K. Hugh Rohrer in August 2020.



Hugh was born in Detroit on Groundhog Day in 1932. After his service in the Korean War, he finished his Bachelors and Masters degrees and became an elementary school teacher, then Community School Director for the Flint Schools and eventually the Vice Principal of Garfield Elementary School. He became a Fellow for Community Education at the Mott Foundation and spent ten years as Director of the Center for Community Education based at Alma College, the dawn of a long career developing and promoting the concept of community education throughout the state of Michigan and beyond.

Hugh was also Professor/Advisor in the Department of Education at Central Michigan University.

He published several articles and received numerous accolades, which included induction into both the National Community Education Association Hall of Fame and the Michigan Education Hall of Fame.

Bob Steeh, Past President of MACAE said, “Hugh was my advisor while at CMU, and was instrumental in my first position in community education for Brighton Area Schools. Hugh had an open-door policy and always gave of his time to all students. He truly believed in the concept of community education and the benefits it could bring to the classroom, school district and community. When you think of the voices and pillars of community education and its development: Charles Stewart Mott, Frank Manley, Jack Minzey, Clyde LeTarte, Dan Cady; Hugh Rohrer is certainly part of that club. He guided many students going into education and encouraged many to think beyond just the four walls of the classroom, (including me).”

Tammy Brown, President of MACAE had this to say, “Our deepest condolences go out to the family, friends and colleagues of K. Hugh Rohrer. He was a long standing MACAE member and a pioneer of community education. His impact is still felt today at the local, state and national level. We will be forever grateful for his dedication to Community Education here in Michigan.”

Hugh attended a number of our MACAE Conferences and gave several keynote addresses. He was awarded the MACAE Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions in the field of education and lifetime commitment to MACAE and community education.

Our thoughts go out to Hugh's family, especially his son Jeff who was also a member of MACAE and worked in adult and community education.