

Proposition 01-09/10

Sponsor: Stuart Munson-McGee (Engineering)

Proposed Committee Assignment: Faculty Affairs 10/13/09

Title: **A Memorial In Honor Of Dr. William (Bill) C. McCarthy**

Dr. William C. McCarthy, NMSU Professor of Civil Engineering passed away on Tuesday, July 4, 2009. Bill was respected by faculty, students, and community members alike. Although Bill was active in a wide range of university and national projects, many of us remember Bill for the never-ending support he gave to students with disabilities to help them achieve the same dream that he did.

Bill was paralyzed in a car accident his senior year at Las Cruces High School in 1966. After the accident, he was told to abandon the hope of becoming an engineer. Instead of giving up, Bill went on to earn his Doctoral Degree in 1981 and joined the NMSU Civil Engineering faculty the same year. He became a full professor in 1995. He subsequently served as associate dean of engineering, interim dean of engineering, and interim associate provost at NMSU in charge of student success and academic programs. He then returned to the Civil Engineering faculty in 2006.

In his quest to support students, Bill became director of the Regional Alliance for Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Squared (RASEM2) program that he started in 1999. The first of its kind, RASEM2 is a regional alliance in New Mexico and West Texas supported by the National Science Foundation to provide enable students with disabilities to overcome the barriers they face in these disciplines.

Nationally, Bill also advocated for students with disabilities. With the National Science Foundation he received a presidential appointment to the Committee for Equal Opportunity in Science and Engineering and served as a member of the Education and Human Resources Advisory Committee. He was a member and vice president of the Engineering Foundation Board of Directors.

During his tenure, McCarthy received numerous awards and recognition for teaching excellence, including the Frank Bromilow Award, The Chi Epsilon Southwestern District James M. Robbins Award and the Dennis Darnall Faculty Achievement Award in 2000. He served as president of the NMSU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi and was a member of Chi Epsilon and Tau Beta Pi Honor Societies.

The dedication demonstrated by Dr. McCarthy over the years to NMSU and our students will be long remembered and sorely missed. The NMSU Faculty Senate extends its deepest condolences and sympathies to the family, friends, students, and all who knew this remarkable man.