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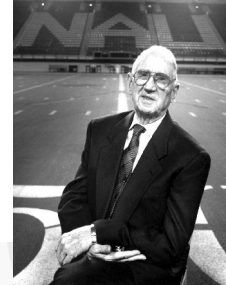
Arizona Historymakers™*
BIOGRAPHY
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J. LAWRENCE WALKUP
1914-2002

Honored as Historymaker 1995
Acclaimed Educator and N.A.U. President



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J. Lawrence Walkup (1914-2002), a major innovator of higher education principles, developed the branch campus concept and laid the groundwork for Arizona’s community college system. He served as president of Northern Arizona University for twenty-two years, from 1957 to 1979. During his tenure, the academic program grew from a single-purpose teachers college with 1,000 students to a university offering 152 degree specializations for 12,800 students. The campus expanded from 168 to 646 acres with eighty new buildings, including the enclosed sports arena named Walkup Skydome in his honor. He was the leading proponent for Arizona State College gaining university status in 1966, when it was renamed Northern Arizona University. Dr. Walkup was elected president of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education in 1968. Upon his retirement in 1979, the Arizona House of Representatives unanimously adopted Concurrent Resolution 2030 honoring Dr. Walkup for educational leadership and involvement in activities for the benefit of the community, the state, and the nation.

Detailed Biography

J. Lawrence Walkup, a major innovator of higher education principles, developed the branch campus concept and laid the groundwork for Arizona’s community college system.

In 1914 Dr. Walkup was born in northern Missouri near the trading center of Chillicothe. He completed his undergraduate and graduate studies in Missouri earning his master’s and doctorate degrees at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

In 1948 Dr. Walkup joined the faculty of Arizona State College in Flagstaff serving as Division Head of Education and by 1950 became Dean of the College. Seven years later the Board of Regents selected him as president of the Flagstaff institution. He was the leading proponent of Arizona State College gaining university status in 1966 at which time it was renamed Northern Arizona University.

During Dr. Walkup’s twenty-two year tenure as president, the college budget of \$1.8 million and enrollment of one thousand students expanded to \$48 million and twelve thousand eight hundred students. His efforts were significant in acquiring new structures for the Flagstaff campus including the South Academic Center and the enclosed sports arena that bears the name Walkup Skydome in his honor. Under his leadership the



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academic program developed from a single-purpose teachers college to a university offering one hundred fifty-two degree specializations. At the time of Dr. Walkup's retirement in 1979, the plant facility valuation had increased from \$8 million to \$150 million.

Listed in *Who's Who in America*, Dr. Walkup's leadership role was acknowledged nationally in 1968 when he was chosen president of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. He was also named in *Who's Who in American Colleges and University Administration* and awarded both the Faculty-Alumni Gold Medal by the University of Missouri and the Outstanding Alumni Award from Central Missouri State University. In 1979 the Regent's Medal was given in Dr. Walkup's honor by the Arizona Board of Regents. House Concurrent Resolution 2030 was unanimously adopted honoring his educational leadership and involvement in activities for the benefit of the community, the state, and the nation.

Dr. Walkup has written six books including two on Northern Arizona University and two on the Walkup family tracing their history back to the year 1200 CE. In addition to his academic and historical interests, he has a thousand acres of farm land in Missouri.

Lawrence and his wife Lucy have one daughter Susan.

