

# Grant Sherwood

*Student Affairs in Higher Education, 1968-2005*

## Personal Background

**Date of Birth:** March 29, 1943

### **Family:**

Wife, Patricia, married for 48 years

Children: Karen Henson, Amy Mocke, and Vance Sherwood

Grandchildren: Maggie, Olivia, Mason, Chloe, Ada, Calla, and Sage



Grant was born in Cleveland, Ohio and spent his formative years in Lakewood, Ohio, with his parents and sister. He was inspired by his high school basketball coach, who also acted as the school counselor, to pursue a career in secondary education where he could teach and coach.

## Education and pre-CSU employment

Grant attended The College of Wooster in his home state of Ohio, where he continued to play varsity basketball, lettering all four years, and serving as co-captain his senior year. One day, while living and working at the college gymnasium, Grant was approached by the dean and given the opportunity to work as head resident for a building of 150 upperclassmen, which included a large group of students in Greek housing. Through this experience, Grant learned that he enjoyed the higher education environment and that, through housing and residence life, he could influence young folks in a way he hadn't imagined.

After graduating from The College of Wooster ('65) with a degree in Liberal Arts, Grant moved to East Lansing, Michigan, where he started his master's degree in College Personnel Services at Michigan State University. A year later, he married his wife Pat (also a Wooster grad), and she joined him in East Lansing.

He enjoyed his time at MSU. Grant lived on-campus as the manager of a large residence hall, which was home to 600 undergraduate men and one woman, his brave, then-22 year-old wife. The housing positions at Wooster and Michigan State reaffirmed his commitment to the field of higher education and student affairs. He reported to professionals who encouraged Grant and provided him with great learning opportunities. While in East Lansing, Pat taught English at a rural school district in the neighboring town of Stockbridge.

Later in his career, Grant earned his Ph.D. in College Student Personnel Administration from the University of Northern Colorado, while working full-time at CSU. His thesis research focused on residence hall students at CSU.

## What brought him to CSU?

After graduating from Michigan State, Grant interviewed for positions all over the country – marking the first time he ever traveled on an airplane or traveled west of the Mississippi River.

Ready for a new adventure, Grant and Pat moved to Colorado. It was a meeting with the Director of Housing and Dining, Denny Madson, who had also come from Ohio, which prompted Grant to accept the job offer. CSU was in the process of reorganizing the housing operations/programs and Grant was intrigued by the challenge. At Michigan State, campus housing was split into two groups: the management side and the student affairs side. The management side made the financial/personnel decisions, while the student affairs side was attempting to create a quality living-learning experience for students. Grant was excited to bring the two sides together at CSU.

Initially, Grant came to CSU with the plan to stay a few years and then move on, but quickly fell in love with Fort Collins and stayed, raising his family and enjoying a number of unique career opportunities on the campus.

## CSU Work History

Grant began his employment at CSU in the fall of 1968, as an Area Coordinator in the Department of Housing and Residence Education. He was promoted to various positions during his early years with CSU and assumed the position of Director of Housing and Dining in 1978. Later in his career, he had the title of Coordinator of Auxiliary Services added to his responsibilities, which included working with the Lory Student Center, Hartshorn Health Services, and Campus Recreation. Grant used these new responsibilities as a way to further advocate for students and to provide a well-rounded program for student development.

In the later stages of his career at CSU, Grant served in two different interim positions: Director of Continuing Education and Vice President of Student Affairs. He finished his administrative career as the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs.

Beginning in the early 1970's, Grant joined the faculty of the newly established College Student Personnel Administration (CSPA) graduate program. This program transitioned to what today is known as the Student Affairs in Higher Education Program (SAHE) based in the School of Education. The program started with a cohort of three students. From the beginning, the CSPA program provided additional training for CSU employees working in leadership positions across campus.

Grant taught in the program during most of his career at CSU and served as chairperson for 15 years when the program became known as SAHE beginning in 1990. The CSPA/SAHE program has graduated more than 400 students who have gone on to successful careers in higher education.

Through SAHE, Grant became an associate professor and taught a variety of courses over the years including Administration, Law, Financial Management, Portfolio and many workshops. During that time, he served as major advisor to more than 50 graduate students.

## **Major Accomplishments**

After a long, fulfilling career at CSU, Grant believes one of his biggest accomplishments is his role in growing and refining the SAHE program to become one of the top programs in the country. He is pleased to see the program's successes: SAHE students now have opportunities to travel and study best practices around the world; graduates have been named to leadership roles at CSU and beyond; and alumni regularly relate enjoying career successes. He is also proud of facilitating the building and renovation of many campus facilities to create true living-learning environments as well as helping to grow and refine the campus auxiliary services.

## **Honors and Recognition**

Grant received the Oliver Pennock Distinguished Service Award and was honored for his years of service to CSU through the Dr. Grant P. Sherwood Student Affairs in Higher Education Endowment, which provides ongoing support for student/faculty program enhancement and initiatives for the SAHE Program.

On a national level, he has been celebrated by a number of professional associations. In 1997, the National Association of College Auxiliary Services (NACAS) awarded him the Robert Newton Award – its top recognition on an international level. He also served as president of NACAS in 1995. The Association of College and University Housing Officers-International (ACUHO-I) presented him with two of their most prestigious awards, The Parthenon Award: and the ACUHO-I Award recognizing his earlier tenure as Director of Housing and Dining at CSU.

