

Dave Fritchen Retires After 22 Years

We recognize Professor David R. Fritchen for 22 years of teaching, leadership and service at Kansas State University.

Professor Fritchen received his B.S. in Construction Science (1971) from Kansas State University and M.S. in Civil Engineering (1977) from University of Washington. He joined the K-State faculty in 1993, after a 21 year career as a commissioned officer in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps. He was promoted to head of the Department of Architectural Engineering and Construction Science in 1998. Under his leadership both academic programs in the Department grew by more than 30 percent. He proudly carried the distinction as the John W. & Dorothy M. Burke, Architectural Engineering Chair (2001-2012) in the College of Engineering. In 2010 he was the recipient of the Presidential Award for Outstanding Department Head and was recognized as outstanding instructor, adviser, and mentor by KSU Mortar Board, the National senior honor society and he is the recipient of numerous other teaching, advising and service awards from student professional organizations and industry. Professor Fritchen took great pride in his role in engineering and construction education. As an experienced constructor, he brought valuable industry experience into the classroom and willingly shared his knowledge with others. He always put students first with teaching, mentoring and advising to inspire students to achieve their goals with confidence and professionalism.

He served on numerous College, University and State committees and was appointed by the governor to serve on the NBAF Oversight Committee and was also appointed by the Senate President to serve as a member of the Capital Restoration Commission for the State House renovation project.

In January 2013 Professor Fritchen stepped down as department head to serve as the College of Engineering project coordinator for the new Phase IV building addition to the engineering complex. During this assignment, he continued to teach and advise students and serve the department and the college in a highly professional manner.

Professor David Fritchen has been a leader, educator, colleague, professional and a friend to us all and we have grown in personal and professional dimensions as a result of his valuable contributions to our success.