

# UA's Charles H. Peyton Distinguished Research Administrator

Colin Kaltenbach, Dean and Director,  
Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station



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The Office of the Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies, and Economic Development recently created the Charles H. Peyton Distinguished Research Administrator Award, to be given annually to an individual who best exemplifies sustained excellence in research administration. Colin Kaltenbach, director of the Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station and current dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, was selected as the first recipient. The honor includes a plaque and a monetary award of \$1000.

Kaltenbach's nominators and the evaluation committee commented that he is an individual of the highest integrity, a compassionate administrator supportive of his faculty and staff, and a creative and innovative problem solver sought for advice on complex problems. He has played a pivotal role in research administration, serving the university for more than 20 years in major research assignments.

Kaltenbach helped write policies and procedures for handling university intellectual property generated through research, as well as the research section of the university self-study for NCAA accreditation, and has been the chair of the Institutional Review Committee for more than 10 years. He is also a leader in the national and international research arenas. He has served the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in many capacities and recently was awarded the USDA-CSREES (Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service) Hall of Fame award for his research leadership. Kaltenbach currently serves as president of the International Arid Lands Consortium.

The award is named for Charles H. Peyton, better known as "Charlie," who was the first university research administrator at the UA. Originally hired in the College of Engineering in 1958, Peyton later served as director of communications in the newly formed Office of the Vice President for Research in 1972. He became the assistant vice president for research in 1976 and soon after, associate vice

president for research, a position he held until his retirement in 1992.

Peyton, who served with four UA vice presidents for research, "provided a guiding hand and incredible insight, which were central to the University's growth and success," according to Leslie Tolbert, vice president for research, graduate studies, and economic development. The award was created in fall 2006 to mark the first anniversary of Peyton's death in 2005.

"Charlie personified the very best in research administration," Tolbert says. "He was a man of great dignity and integrity, his word was his bond and finding creative solutions to complex problems was his forté. He set a very high standard for all of us who had the privilege of working for, and with, him."

As the recipient of the first Charles H. Peyton Distinguished Research Administrator Award, Kaltenbach stood out in having similar qualities.

"I worked frequently with Mr. Peyton over many years and always found him willing to do whatever it might take to make the University of Arizona more productive in quality research and to carry those duties out with both grace and goodwill. These apply equally well to Dr. Kaltenbach," wrote one nominator.

"After long service both in Wyoming and now in Arizona, he is the most influential agricultural experiment station director in the nation," says Eugene Sander, executive vice president and provost of the University of Arizona. "In this capacity and as vice dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, he has played a major role in the integration of research, extension and academic programs." ❖

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