



GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS INDUCTEE 1992

DR. NEAL R. BERTE served for nearly 30 years as President of Birmingham-Southern College from 1976 until his retirement in 2003. During his tenure, the college received considerable national recognition and experienced a period of unprecedented growth.

Dr. Berte has an impressive academic and professional background including designation as a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow and Omicron Delta Kappa National Scholarship winner. He was selected as one of America's top 100 emerging leaders in higher education in a national survey by the American Council on Education and Change Magazine. In 1979, he was named to the Alabama Academy of Honor, one of the youngest inductees ever. In 1986, Dr. Berte was recognized as one of the 100 most effective college presidents in the nation in a research study sponsored by the Exxon Education Foundation. Dr. Berte is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and holds three degrees from the University of Cincinnati. Prior to coming to Birmingham-Southern College, he served as Vice President for Educational Development at the University of Alabama, where he also was the first Dean of the new college.

Dr. Berte has served in a number of leadership positions in Birmingham, including President of the 1981 Festival of Arts, President of the Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce in 1988 and Central Campaign Chairman for the 1983 United Way Campaign. He was also President of the United Way in 1989.

Dr. Berte was named "Citizen of the Year" for 1985, was the recipient of the Erskine Ramsey Award for Outstanding Civic Service to Birmingham and was awarded the Brotherhood Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He served as Chair of the Steering Committee for the development of Leadership Birmingham and Chairman of the Steering Committee as well as a member of the Board. In 1984, Dr. Berte was named by the Birmingham Post-Herald as one of the "Top 10 Community Leaders" in Birmingham and in 1990, was named as one of the ten leaders of Birmingham by The Birmingham News. Dr. Berte also was chosen to serve on the Founding Board of Directors for Leadership Alabama and was a founder of the Birmingham Partnership, a bi-racial committee to promote greater understanding in the Birmingham community.

He lives on the Birmingham-Southern College campus. He and his wife, Anne, have four children.