

Founding Father of Hawkeye Community Colleges Dies at the Age of 96

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WATERLOO—Harold Brock, one of the founding fathers of Hawkeye Community College, passed away on January 2. Brock was a legend in his own time. He was an apprentice of Henry Ford, a gifted engineer with distinguished honors, a community leader, and a strong proponent of providing opportunities for others. In addition, Brock worked with both Edsel Ford and Henry Ford II. Throughout his life, he was involved in many activities to build a better world for people. It is a legacy for which he will always be remembered.

Hawkeye's interim president, Dr. Linda Allen, stated, "Harold's passing is a profound loss for his family, the students and staff of Hawkeye Community College, and the communities we serve. He was an exceptional ambassador and advocate for the College, and he will be greatly missed. His vision and ongoing leadership over the past 45 years has truly been a driving force in the success of Hawkeye and Iowa's community colleges. Harold's life-long passion included mentoring young people. That is why it was particularly fitting the student center, built on the main campus in 2008, be named in Harold's honor. This historic event marked the first time a building had been named for an individual on the college's campus. The Brock Student Center is a distinctive addition to the Hawkeye Community College campus and has provided a welcoming hub for all students."

Brock helped to start Hawkeye Institute of Technology in 1965, which later became Hawkeye Community College. His vision, leadership, and guidance helped shape Hawkeye and the other community colleges into the fine institutions they are today. Brock's efforts have been recognized both regionally and nationally. He served as chairman of the board at Hawkeye from 1965 to 1980. He was re-elected to the Board of Trustees in 1998 and served as Chair in 2000. He was then re-elected by his district for another three-year term in 2001.

In 1997, Brock along with the other two founding members of the college and the Foundation, were inaugurated as lifetime Foundation Board Directors. In 2000, the Hawkeye Community College Foundation honored Brock with the Inspiration Award for his inspirational gifts of time, talent, and resources. Brock devoted countless hours of his time, energy, ideas, and resources to enhance the quality of education for all young people in the community. Brock established the Harold Brock Family Endowment with the Hawkeye Foundation which provides scholarships to students.

Brock had more than 50 years of experience in the automotive and tractor industry. He started his career at the Ford Trade and Apprentice School in 1929. He joined Ford Motor and beginning in 1939 served as chief engineer of tractor engineering for almost 20 years. While at Ford Motor Company, he served as a Product Engineering Designer, Chief Engineer of Ford Tractor Operations, and Advanced Truck Designer.

In 1959, Brock left Ford Motor Company to work in the Product Engineering area of John Deere Waterloo Works in Iowa. There he served first as Director of Research for Worldwide Tractor Designs where he led the development of advanced designs. From 1980 to 1985, Brock served on the Joint Venture Board and was an engineering consultant for the John Deere and Yanmar Diesel Engine Company. As a consultant, Brock was responsible for converting all worldwide operations to metric measurement, and organized a joint venture that led to the design, development, manufacturing, and marketing of a series of farm tractors to be produced in Japan and manufactured in the US. Brock was a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) since 1944 and was the SAE president in 1971. He was a founding member of the SAE Mississippi Valley Section and was an SAE Fellow. In addition, he was a member of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers since 1950. He was a founding board member of Junior Achievement of Black Hawk Land, serving as chairman of the board from 1979 to 1980 and again from 1991 to 1992. He served on the board of the Grout Museum.

Brock received numerous local, state, and national awards. In 2003, he received the Lifetime Membership Award from the Association of Community College Trustees. He was selected in 2005 as the recipient of the John P. Kibbie award by the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees. In 2006, he received the Iowa Governor's Award for Volunteerism and an Honorary Diploma from Hawkeye Community College, presented after his keynote address at the students' spring graduation. The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Central Region Trustee Award was bestowed on Brock in 2007. He was then awarded the top trustee award, the M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award at the 2007 national conference.

Brock will fondly be remembered for many notable accomplishments and activities during his lifetime. He left an indelible mark on Hawkeye Community College, entire community college system in Iowa, and the communities he served.

Services are pending at Locke Funeral Home in Waterloo and a service will be later this month.