San José State University Emeritus Faculty Association Biography

Name: Gail Jackson Fullerton
Department: President, Sociology
Academic Rank: Professor & President Emeritus
Year Retired: 1991
City of Residence: Coos Bay, Oregon

Facebook Page or Website URL:

Birthplace: Lincoln, Nebraska
Birth Year: 1927
Marital Status: Married
Spouse or Partner’s Name: Stan Fullerton

Children’s Names: Greg Putney, Cynde Putney Mitchell
No. of Grandchildren: 2
No. of Great Grandchildren: 0

Colleges or Universities Attended:
University of Nebraska 1945-49 BA English & Speech
University of Nebraska 1949-50 MA Sociology
University of Oregon 1950-54 PhD Sociology
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Teaching Experience:

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<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
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<tr>
<td>Drake University (extension)</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td>1957</td>
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<td>Florida State University</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>1959</td>
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<tr>
<td>San José State University</td>
<td>1963</td>
<td>1972</td>
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Administrative, Business, or Professional Experience (other than teaching):

Dean of Graduate Studies & Research, San José State University 1972-1976
Executive Vice President, San José State University, 1977-1978
President, San José State University, 1978-1991

Selected Publications:


Personal Commentary (please limit comments to one page):

During the 13 years that I was President of San Jose State University I saw my job as one of helping academic programs reach new levels of excellence. Sometimes this meant working to acquire funding for new or renovated facilities, such as the renovation and expansion of the Engineering building and the renovation and preservation of Washington Square Hall. Sometimes it meant finding ways to cut red tape so that an innovative program could be funded. Sometimes it required resolving conflicts between divisions of the university in ways that I hoped would serve best the needs of our students.

Many of our students were the first in their families to graduate from college. Some continued their education in graduate or professional programs, but most wanted and needed to embark on careers for which the baccalaureate degree had prepared them. I was pleased when executives would tell me that newly hired graduates of San Jose State could “land running.” It has been a joy to follow the careers of alumni who have made a significant difference to our society.
Date Completed: May 22, 2010