

Archived Information

David Ward

A leading spokesperson for American higher education, David Ward became the 11th president of the American Council on Education on September 1, 2001. Ward is chancellor emeritus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he received his doctorate in 1963. Prior to becoming chancellor at UW-Madison, Ward also served as associate dean of the graduate school from 1980 to 1987 and as vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost from 1989 to 1993. Ward's service to higher education includes the chairmanship of the Board of Trustees of the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development, a nonprofit group that spearheaded the development of Internet 2. He also has chaired the Government Relations Council of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, and served on the Committee on Undergraduate Education of the Association of American Universities, the Science Coalition, and the Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land-Grant Universities.

During his four years as provost of UW-Madison, Ward led the development of a strategic plan that improved the quality of undergraduate education there; added to the campus research facilities; enhanced the connections between the university, the city, the business community, and the state; and creatively combined public and private support for the institution. These changes gave new expression to the Wisconsin Idea, the venerable philosophical framework for the university's role in public service and knowledge transfer.

Ward also held the Andrew Hill Clark Professorship of Geography at the university, served as chair of the geography department from 1974 to 1977, and was president of the Association of American Geographers in 1989. As an urban geographer, he pioneered research on English and American cities during their rapid industrialization in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and held visiting appointments at University College London; The Australian National University, Canberra; Hebrew University, Jerusalem; and at his undergraduate alma mater, the University of Leeds.