

Dr. Lyle B. Beaver-2009

These words, often used by Dr. Lyle Beaver, simply expressed his philosophy as he led the efforts resulting in the most significant funding initiatives in MPRA's history. Due primarily to his leadership, we have the Missouri Park and Recreation Scholarship Charitable Trust, a student scholarship program generally regarded as the most outstanding scholarship program of any National and Recreation Park Association state affiliate. At this time, over 900 scholarships totaling more than \$250,000 have been awarded to Missouri graduate and undergraduate students majoring in Parks and Recreation. Additionally, in 2004, the Beaver Estate donated \$339,615 to the MPR Scholarship Charitable Trust and \$137,486 to the Missouri Park and Recreation Association. Beyond his economic contributions, Dr. Beaver was a dynamic speaker who began his Missouri education career as an associate professor of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Central Missouri State University (now the University of Central Missouri). After developing the undergraduate recreation curriculum, he was promoted to full professor in 1963, and in 1967 became chairman of Recreation and Health Education at CMSU. Dr. Beaver chaired the MPRA recreation curriculum approval committee for several years, helping to establish many of the high standards that exist today. A man of complete integrity, Dr. Beaver often said, "Don't ever lower your standards for anyone or anything." Dr. Beaver's impact is described by another Missouri leader, Dr. Glenn Gillespie of the University of Missouri. He said, "No individual educator has influenced more young lives or contributed more to the recreation and leisure profession in Missouri than Dr. Lyle Beaver. His love for the student and dedication to the profession is unsurpassed." During his career, he received numerous awards, including the Liebert Wier Award as the Outstanding Graduate Student in Recreation and Park Administration at Indiana University 1960, MPRA Fellow Award 1970, and Luther College Doctor of Humane Letters Degree 1977.