

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

SOUTH DAKOTA BANDMASTERS HALL OF FAME

Lawrence L. Mitchell - Vermillion



When he retired from teaching and became Director of Band Emeritus in August of 2006, Lawrence L. Mitchell had completed thirty-two years as a member of the University of South Dakota music faculty.

Dr. Mitchell received his B.F.A. degree in Music Education from the University of South Dakota and his M.A., M.F.A., and D.M.A. degrees in Trombone Performance from the University of Iowa. he taught public school instrumental music in Rock Valley, Iowa (1961-1966). During 1966-1968 Dr. Mitchell attended the University of Iowa where he was a low brass teaching assistant, a graduate assistant with the University of Iowa bands, and Assistant Director of the University of Iowa Summer Music Camps. In 1968 Dr. Mitchell returned to public school teaching and taught instrumental music at Humboldt, Iowa. In 1970 he was appointed Assistant Director of Bands and Professor of Low Brass at Central Missouri State University where he served from until 1973. In the fall of 1973 Dr. Mitchell returned to the University of South Dakota as Professor of Low Brass and Assistant Director of Bands.

During his tenure at USD; Dr. Mitchell served as Director of the USD Marching Coyotes, the USD Jazz Ensembles, the USD Wind Ensembles, and the USD Symphonic Band. He taught low brass, conducting; instrumental literature and methods; music literature; and jazz and classical music appreciation. He served as the Department of Music Chairperson for eleven years. He founded and hosted the Quad State Marching Competition, the USD Coyote Jazz Festival, the USD High School Honor Band Festival, the High School Corps Marching Camp, and the Instrumental Music Director's Summer Institute. He was the Director of the Upper Midwest Summer Junior/Senior Music Camp.

Dr. Mitchell is actively involved in trombone performance with the Sioux City Symphony and the Symphony Brass Quintet. In June of 2003 he became the conductor of the Sioux City Municipal Band where he directs for the eight week summer season. Dr. Mitchell remains active within the quad-state region as an adjudicator, clinician, and guest conductor for honor bands and festivals. In 1976 he was selected as the USD faculty member of the year. He was the 1996 recipient of the Phi Beta Mu Distinguished Service Award as well as the South Dakota Outstanding Bandmaster of the Year Award. During his April 30, 2006 final university band concert Dr. Mitchell was awarded an Executive Proclamation by Governor Mike Rounds proclaiming April 30, 2006 as Dr. Lawrence Mitchell Day. Dr. Mitchell is the 2008 recipient of the Northwest Iowa Bandmasters Association Jay Wicker Service Award and the 2008 Northwest Iowa Bandmasters Association Karl King Award (Retired).