



# Huey B. Long

Presented by: Crystal Reimler, University of Central Oklahoma  
Jackson College of Graduate Studies, Adult and Higher Education – Student Personnel  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lori Risley



## Background:

Dr. Huey B. Long is Professor Emeritus, Kellogg Professor, Continuing Professional and Higher Education, University of Oklahoma. Dr. Long held tenured professorships at Florida State University and the University of Georgia, prior to his retirement. He is an author of more than 700 articles, books, and book chapters on a variety of topics, including self-directed learning. Dr. Long was inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame in 1996.

## Major Contributions to SDL:

Dr. Long's major contributions include encouraging and supporting others in their inquiries, conceptualizing self-directed learning as a complex behavior including cognition, personality, choice processes, and environment and personal and collaborative research and writing. His attention was concerned with issues associated with understanding the bigger issues of learning, and then if and how self-direction in learning is a subset of that important human trait. In 1962 he was aware that social pressures seemed to affect individual's use of information and their subsequent behavior. His research included workplace pressures and social influences upon judgment among prison inmates. Dr. Long's initiated the Self-Direct Learning Symposium in 1986. In discussing the Symposium, Dr. Long stated "The symposium has been successful in achieving goals I set for it in 1986. But I would be remiss to not mention all of those colleagues and students whose efforts are so closely connected with the above. I am indebted to all of them."

## Recommendations:

"If we believe that language development is a significant factor in cognition we should inquire into the effect of politically correct speech and social censorship upon self-directed inquiry."

## Current SDL Research and Application:

As my first research leading to my PhD dissertation prompted by personal workplace experience revealed individuals' judgmental decisions were influenced by status and rank in an organization. My further research concerning inmates in a Florida prison found they modified initial independent decisions, even when the first decision was correct, to agree or disagree with others." "Adults who scored in the lowest quartile [on the SDLRS] were often controlled by life's circumstances more than was true for high performers."

## ISSDL:

Dr. Huey B. Long initiated the first Self-Directed Learning Symposium in 1986, was an inaugural presenter at the 1986 Symposium, received the first Malcolm Knowles Self-Directed Learning Award, and is co-editor emeritus of the International Journal of Self-Directed Learning.



Huey and Marie at the Junior and Senior Prom in 1953.

## Important SDL Publications:

Long, H. B. (1999). *Contemporary ideas and practices in self-directed learning*. Norman, Okla.?: Public Managers Center, College of Education, University of Oklahoma.

Long, H. B. (2001). *Self-directed learning and the information age*. United States: Motorola University Press.

Long, H. B. (2002). *Twenty-first century advances in self-directed learning*. United States: Motorola University Press.

Long, H. B., & Ashford, M. L. (1976). Self-directed inquiry as a method of continuing education in Colonial America. *Journal of General Education*, 28(3), 245-55.

Long, H. B., & International Self-Directed Learning Symposium. (1997). *Expanding horizons in self-directed learning*. Norman, OK: Public Managers Center, College of Education, University of Oklahoma.

Long, H. B., & International Self-Directed Learning Symposium. (2003). *Current developments in e-learning & self-directed learning*. United States: International Self-Directed Learning Symposium.