

WILLARD CLARK LEWALLEN, Ph.D.



Dr. Willard Clark Lewallen is a native Californian and a product of the California public education system where he graduated from Garey High School in Pomona. He completed a B.S. degree cum laude at California State Polytechnic University at Pomona and played intercollegiate baseball. His interest in sports and fitness continued and he was awarded a graduate teaching assistantship at Purdue University where he completed a master's degree in exercise science (the study of human performance, health, fitness, etc.). Just before entering a career in teaching and coaching he accepted a position as counselor/academic advisor in the School of Liberal Arts at Purdue University. It was then he developed a deep interest in student learning, student development, and higher education. He went on to complete a second master's degree in counseling at Purdue University and a Ph.D. in education from UCLA.

After five years as a counselor/academic advisor at Purdue University, Dr. Lewallen accepted a counseling position at Antelope Valley College. From 1984-1999 he served as a faculty member and as a Dean at Antelope Valley College. From 1999-2007, Dr. Lewallen served as the Vice President, Student Services at Victor Valley College. He currently serves as president of West Hills College Coalinga. Additionally, since 1992 he has served as an adjunct professor in graduate studies at two universities (Chapman University and University of La Verne) where he teaches psychological assessment and research/evaluation methods.

Dr. Lewallen's research interests primarily focus on assessing the impact of student characteristics and the college environment on student learning, development, achievement, and persistence. He has become a leading authority on the subject of undecided college students and his research has received national recognition. Dr. Lewallen was invited by the *National Resource Center for the First Year Experience and Students in Transition* to write the opening chapter of the monograph, Issues in Advising the Undecided College Student. Most recently, he has been engaged in a six-year, longitudinal study of graduating high school seniors that enter the community college. Additionally, he completed some of the first research in California Community Colleges that examined the characteristics and academic performance of distance learners. Dr. Lewallen has authored several journal articles and is a frequent presenter at state, national, and international conferences.

In addition to his research interests, Dr. Lewallen has been a pioneer in the use of information technology as a tool to assist in the delivery of instruction and student services and has served as a consultant to several community colleges. He has provided leadership for the implementation of an ERP, managed extensive network systems and has trained hundreds of staff in the use of information technology.

Dr. Lewallen has extensive leadership experience and involvement at the local and state-wide level. He has served as president of the California Community College Counselors Association (CCCCA), a professional organization that serves approximately 1,600 counselors statewide. He has served as President of the Board of Directors for EUREKA - the California Career Information System, a company that specializes in career development software applications. He represented the California Community College Chief Student Services Administrators Association (CCCCSSAA) as the statewide representative to the Chancellor's Office, Technology and Telecommunications Advisory Council. He is currently active in the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) where he serves on its Board of Directors, Management Development Commission and Membership Advisory Council. He was recently named ACCCA's 2006-07 Volunteer of the Year. He was a member of the state-wide task force that revised the accreditation standards for student services and learning support. He is an evaluator for the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. Additionally, Dr. Lewallen is active in charitable efforts as well as local civic organizations and agencies.

Dr. Lewallen's hobbies and interests include guitar, fitness, and backpacking. He plays guitar in a band with other community college professionals and their music ranges from R&B to blues to classic rock. His wife Michele is a health and physical education professor and they are the proud parents of Jennifer (23), Kasey (20), and Parker (19). He and Michele lead physically active lifestyles that include a commitment to physical fitness. They have both completed the Los Angeles Marathon.