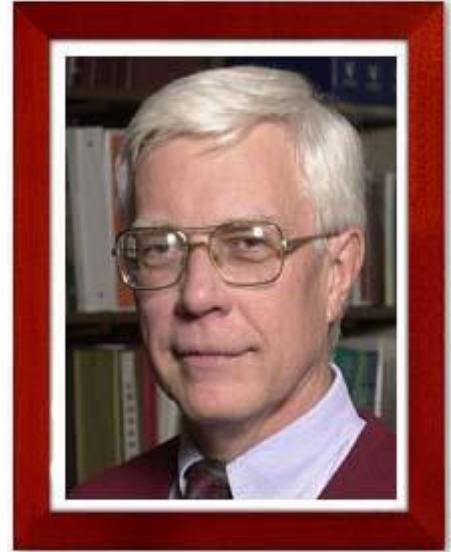


Former Agricultural Economics Faculty

David Petritz (1945-)

After 35 years of service to Purdue University, David Petritz, the director of Purdue Extension, retired on June 30, 2007. He was appointed as the sixth Director of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service in 1999, after a 27-year history as an Extension specialist, professor, assistant department head, and program leader for Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Petritz joined the Department of Agricultural Economics as an assistant professor in 1972. His areas of research and Extension were in the economics of beef and sheep, forage production and marketing, and in agricultural market analysis and outlook. In 1982 he became the assistant head for Extension education in Agricultural Economics. He was named the agricultural and natural resources program leader and the assistant director of Purdue Extension in 1989, serving in that post until he became director.



One of Dave's strengths was his strong commitment to seeking solutions for any problem. He worked on several programs to help farm families deal with difficult financial times, including the FARM project, which focused on financial decision-making tools for farmers. He also coordinated the 1988 drought response effort that included a toll-free hotline and extensive news media coverage.

As director, Dave was effective in addressing the needs of farm families by combining the efforts of the Colleges of Agriculture and Consumer and Family Sciences and the School of Veterinary Medicine. He assisted staff members in various departments of these colleges to identify, develop, and implement educational programming. His vision created issue based teams for critical land use education with the Land Use Team and entrepreneurship with the New Ventures Team. He also worked to establish Learning Centers as part of the university engagement partnership with local communities. While director, Petritz was assigned the role of helping the entire university become more engaged in finding solutions to the problems facing Indiana.

Dave received many awards during his career. The capstone award was the National Distinguished Service Ruby. The Distinguished Service Ruby is the highest and most prestigious recognition presented by Epsilon Sigma Phi and is designed to recognize outstanding thinking, performance and leadership in Cooperative Extension.

Petritz is a native of Rockford, IL where his family still retains a farm. He actively participated in 4-H in Winnebago County and in FFA at Stillman Valley High School. He earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in agricultural economics from the University of

Illinois. His family includes his wife Cornelia, daughter Kate and her husband Ron, son Steven, and grandson Nathan.