



FOR RELEASE
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Tau Beta Pi Announces Marvin E. Criswell, Ph.D., P.E., as 2014 Outstanding Advisor

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named its 21st Outstanding Advisor in its program to recognize engineering faculty who make important contributions to students and collegiate chapters. While the primary goal of Tau Beta Pi is to recognize students of superior scholarship and exemplary character and to honor eminent practicing engineers, the Association also lauds excellence in engineering education and in the ethical practice of engineering.

Marvin E. Criswell, Ph.D. P.E., *Nebraska Alpha '65*, professor emeritus, former professor of civil and environmental engineering, associate department head at Colorado State University (CSU), and Advisor to the Colorado Delta Chapter, is the *2014 Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Advisor*. He will be honored on October 3, 2014, at the 109th annual Convention in Spokane, Washington. Tau Beta Pi President Larry A. Simonson, Ph.D., P.E., will present \$1,000 and a commemorative plaque to Dr. Criswell. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to the CSU College of Engineering's discretionary fund.

Dr. Criswell was cited in his nomination for setting an example with his leadership style, thirty-plus years of dedication to the Association, and infusing the human component within advising. As a result of his teaching and guidance, he is a role model not only to his students, but also to future leaders and those responsible for the development of young engineers.

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Dr. Criswell received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Nebraska (UNL). He then obtained masters and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in engineering. He joined CSU in 1970 as an assistant professor. Since 1984, Dr. Criswell has been a professor and has also served as the CSU Director of the NASA Colorado Space Grant Consortium Program. He was a founding principal of the consulting firm, Engineering Data Management, and his research areas include timber systems, reinforced concrete slab systems, and structural analysis.

He was inducted into the Sigma Tau chapter at UNL and became an advisor to the CO Delta Chapter of Tau Beta Pi in 1977. He began two decades as Chief Advisor to CO D in 1996, and continues today performing vital tasks for the prosperity of the chapter such as processing class rankings, guiding officers, and encouraging organized agendas and goals.

There have been difficult years for the CO D Chapter, in which Dr. Criswell had to shoulder much of the responsibilities and duties of the collegiate chapter through his own hard work and dedication. Upon passing on his duties as Chief Advisor, Dr. Criswell said, "I've never felt like this was my chapter, I was only the caretaker. It has always been about helping the students in whatever way that I can."

As a teacher, he has embraced innovative engineering practices and was part of one of the first online learning programs in the 1980s. Dr. Criswell has also been a district chair for the American Society of Education, an ABET university curriculum accreditor, and a member of the ASCE committee on curricular accreditation of schools. Even though he has received approximately 22 national awards and listings in his various roles at CSU, he considers his work in the sustainment and advancement of educational performance of future engineering students as his greatest accomplishment.

His ability to inspire others to be innovative and to give back to the engineering community can be seen in his former students, including current CSU Engineering Dean, David I. McLean, Ph.D., P.E., *Louisiana Alpha '80*, who cited Dr. Criswell for "consistently championing Tau Beta Pi and our local chapter to his faculty colleagues and to the College's leadership."

In his nomination packet, Dr. Criswell was recognized as "the driving force" behind CO D receiving TBP Secretary Commendation Awards in 2007, 2008, and 2011. Most recently, at the 2013 Convention in Ames, Iowa, the chapter was recognized with a membership award for initiating at least one more electee than in the previous year.

In recognition of his contributions to the engineering profession, his unwavering support of the student chapter, and his belief in the mission of the Association, Tau Beta Pi hereby recognizes Marvin E. Criswell as the 2014 Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Advisor.

Tau Beta Pi is the Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters at 242 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 39 cities. It has initiated more than 554,000 members in its 129-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. (See www.tbp.org)