CLARK ALUMNUS RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR

Richard B. Erickson, AB 54, AM 59, has been elected to the prestigious College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Mr. Erickson received his training in geography at Clark and began his very long career in the emerging field of regional planning in 1958. For 37 years of his career he served as the executive director of the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency/Council of Governments. Since retiring from full-time practice in 1998, he has worked as a planning consultant. He currently is serving as the interim executive director of the Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region, which deals with economic development.

Election to the College of Fellows is the highest honor bestowed by the American Institute of Certified Planners. Fellows are so honored for consistent distinguished service to the planning profession and to society as a whole. Mr. Erickson was cited for four major accomplishments achieved under generally difficult circumstances:

- persistent and effective advocacy for public sector planning;
- exceptional leadership in successfully responding to southeastern Connecticut’s major economic crisis of the 20th century;
- a high level of success in creating regional agencies to implement planning recommendations;
- a very positive and long-term role as a mentor to staff members and other planners.

Erickson was nominated for election to the College of Fellows by the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association. Chapter president Jason Vincent said of Erickson’s career: “His resume demonstrates not just his mastery of the values and principles of planning but shows that he was a pioneer on numerous issues. His leadership in addressing these always led to the best solution possible being identified, pursued, and realized. Throughout his career his work has been of a consistently superior quality. The products of his efforts frequently were recognized as models to be followed by other regions or communities.” Erickson is believed to be the only Clark geography graduate to be honored by election to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Mr. Erickson credits his education at Clark and the ethic of public service that he gained here with much of his professional success. He now lives in Norwich, Connecticut with his wife, Marcia. AM 59, The couple met at Clark’s Graduate School of Geography in 1956.