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1980 Outstanding Service Award

Ed Hatcher, President
Iowa Science Teachers Section
Iowa Academy of Science

The Iowa Science Teachers Section of the Iowa Academy of Science has selected Dr. Clifford G. McCollum of the University of Northern Iowa as the recipient of its 1980 Outstanding Service Award. This award honors Iowans who have contributed significantly to the services of the Iowa Science Teachers Section and to the needs of all science educators in the state. The award was presented to Dr. McCollum on February 29 at the noon luncheon of the annual Science Teachers Short Course sponsored by Iowa State University and the Iowa Science Teachers Section on the ISU campus.

Dr. McCollum was born in South Gifford, Missouri, in 1919. He graduated from La Plata High School in 1935, attended Central College, Fayette, Missouri and received a B.S. degree from the University of Missouri in 1939.

Upon graduation, he taught at Monett Senior High School and Junior College, Poplar Bluff Junior High School and Boonville High School from 1939-42. From 1939-40 he served as a member of the Missouri
State Science Curriculum Committee and was on the writing team of a general science course of study.

During World War II, he served as an instructor with the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command, both as a civilian and as an enlisted man. He began graduate study in zoology before the war at the University of Missouri. He completed an M.A. degree in 1947 and an Ed.D. degree in 1949. The work for his doctorate combined formal work in both zoology and science education.

With primary concerns about the educational backgrounds of elementary science teachers, he came to Iowa State Teachers College in 1949. After teaching courses for preservice and inservice elementary teachers, and after spending a year at the State University of New York College at Oneota, he was named head of the Department of Science at Iowa State Teachers College in 1957. Dr. McCollum and his wife, Alice, currently reside in Cedar Falls, where he is dean of the College of Natural Science and professor of biology at the University of Northern Iowa.

Dr. McCollum has served as an active member of numerous professional organizations, including Alpha Epsilon Delta, American Association for the Advancement of Science, National Association of Biology Teachers, National Science Teachers Association and Phi Delta Kappa. He is currently the past president of the Iowa Academy of Science.

Dr. McCollum continues to maintain a primary interest in teacher education and an academic interest in the history of science. He regularly teaches courses in the history and nature of science and does some research, primarily from secondary sources, in this field.

Dr. McCollum has presented papers at many conferences and symposia during his professional career. He has participated in numerous science institutes for teacher training and has served as a consultant for many National Science Foundation studies and review committees. He is also very active on numerous committees at the University of Northern Iowa. He has authored many science education-related publications and is listed in Who's Who in America, Outstanding Educators of America and Leaders in American Education, to name only a few.

Dean McCollum enjoys his associations with science educators in Iowa’s elementary and secondary school and colleges and universities. The Iowa Science Teachers Section of the Iowa Academy of Science wishes to express its gratitude for the service and leadership that Dr. McCollum has provided to the science students and the science teachers of Iowa.

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