

Dear Colleagues:

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Barbara R. “Bobbie” Leonard, highly respected community advocate, philanthropist and longtime supporter of Cal State San Bernardino.

She and her late husband, William E. “Bill” Leonard, contributed greatly to this university’s legacy. He was a local land developer and active civic leader who staunchly advocated for the establishment of a state college in San Bernardino. The two remained committed to CSUSB, giving more than \$2.5 million in support of its educational mission.

Barbara and William first met when he was setting out smudge pots in her father’s orchards. They both graduated from San Bernardino High School and later attended the University of California, Berkeley, where she studied nursing. They were married in 1944 and settled in San Bernardino.

Her interest in nursing began at an early age. After completing her bachelor’s degree, Barbara later earned her public health certificate from Loma Linda University. For many years, she volunteered with the Red Cross and other area charities. She was a strong supporter of the CSUSB nursing program, and helped establish the William E. & Barbara R. Leonard Scholarship at San Bernardino Valley College, given to a student majoring in nursing.

Although soft spoken and not one to draw attention to herself, Barbara was always ready to help young people in their quest for education. She was involved in the awarding of a family scholarship established by a relative at the First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino where she and her husband attended.

In 2006, the CSU Board of Trustees renamed the CSUSB Transportation Center as the William & Barbara Leonard Transportation Center. Housed in the Jack H. Brown College of Business & Public Administration, it is one of 18 across the country designated by the U.S. Department of Transportation as a Beyond Traffic Innovation Center.

Barbara remained a loyal and active supporter of CSUSB. In just the last few weeks, she was involved in renaming the William E. Leonard Endowed Scholarship to the William E. Leonard Memorial Transportation Internship. The endowment will support a paid internship benefitting one or more student workers in the Leonard Transportation Center.

Predeceased in death by her husband (2008), Barbara is survived by her sons, William “Bill” Leonard Jr. – a former California State Assembly member and State Senator, Fredrick Leonard, and daughter, Christine Leonard.

Information regarding services will be provided as they become available. I ask everyone to keep the Leonard family in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Tomás D. Morales
President