

American Psychological Association
Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to Psychology
2002

Presented to
Richard C. Atkinson, PhD

On the occasion of its 110th annual meeting, the American Psychological Association is honored to recognize the outstanding lifetime contributions to psychology as a scientist, scholar, national policy maker, educational leader, and visionary administrative architect who has strengthened international and scientific and educational enterprises.

As a creative scientist, you uncovered basic processes in human learning, memory, and perception and formulated many of your insights as precise mathematical models. You extended your basic research on learning into the development of trailblazing programs for delivering computer-aided educational curricula to schoolchildren, often in disadvantaged communities.

As an eminent scholar, you wrote and edited numerous distinguished journal articles and books, including *Introduction to Psychology*, which is now in its 13th edition and continues to serve as a gateway to psychology for thousands of college students in the U.S. and abroad. You have also been recognized by numerous honors including APA's E.L. Thorndike Award and Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award.

As a highly effective national policy maker, you have been indefatigable in advocating support for science and science education through your lucid and persuasive articles, editorials, and op-ed pieces. You were also at the forefront in supporting electronic journal publications for scientists.

As an administrator and educational leader, your contributions have been highly significant in their scope and impact. You served Stanford University as its psychology chairperson and associate dean. As director of the National Science Foundation, you were a forceful and persuasive champion

of scientific peer review and the lasting values of basic research and science education, earning a reputation as an extraordinarily effective advocate for science, scientific research, and education at all levels.

As chancellor of the University of California at San Diego, you extended the institution's already formidable record for research productivity and scientific breakthroughs by cultivating a high-quality intellectual environment that attracted a cadre of productive faculty and promising students.

As president of the entire University of California system, you have adroitly managed to steer a judicious course in the controversy surrounding affirmative action programs and have worked to develop a fair means of increasing ethnic diversity throughout the university, thus influencing adaptation of similar strategies throughout the nation. As president of UC, you have been a strong advocate in the California State Assembly for increased funding for higher education, fostering plans for expanding current campuses and initiating new UC branches.

For your unparalleled career in research, administration, educational leadership, and public service, the American Psychological Association is privileged to present you with this APA Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to Psychology.