

Jonathan Lawson
Former Colleague and NWCCU Evaluator

Jonathan Lawson was well-known to NWCCU through his leadership and service as an evaluator dating back to a comprehensive evaluation in 1997. Jonathan passed away on the morning of September 11, 2018, at the age of 77 at Pocatello Regional Medical Center in Idaho. He was born on March 27, 1941, to Eleanor and Lawrence Lawson in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Jonathan grew up in Pennsylvania and went to school at Tilton School in New Hampshire, and to York Junior College and later to Texas Christian University where he completed his doctoral degree in English in 1970. Jonathan and his wife, Pam, moved to Pocatello as newlyweds in September 1995. Jonathan moved to Idaho to serve as Vice President for Academic Affairs (AVP) and Professor of English at Idaho State University (ISU). Moving west for Jonathan and Pam was to be an adventure, and it was. They never left!

Jonathan was an inclusive leader. While serving as AVP, he worked collaboratively with colleagues at other Idaho higher education institutions, and on campus he worked closely with faculty leadership on multiple projects. Following his tenure as AVP, he was Founding Chair of the Graduate Department of Educational Leadership & Instructional Design in ISU's College of Education. An inspiring instructor, Jonathan was beloved by his students and lauded for his ability masterfully to incorporate his many years of academic leadership experience into his teaching. He authored two books and numerous articles and was awarded several fellowships and awards, including the Journal of Allied Health's J. Warren Perry Award in 2016.

Jonathan's contributions to the community went well beyond his work at ISU. He served on multiple community boards, including the Greater Pocatello Chamber of Commerce, the Bannock Development Corporation, and the Southeast Idaho Works Board. He received the President's Award (2001), and a Lifetime Achievement Award (2013), from the Pocatello Chamber of Commerce.

Prior to 1995, Jonathan served for ten years as Senior VP for Academic Affairs and, prior to assuming that position, as Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Hartford. From 1981 to 1984, he was Dean of Liberal Arts at Winona State University, following administrative and teaching positions at St. Cloud State University.

Over the course of his career, he advised dozens of doctoral students, skillfully guiding them through the dissertation process. He served on multiple higher education positions and accreditation teams for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

Donations in Jonathan's memory can be made to the Tilton School (<https://www.tiltonschool.org>); Texas Christian University Foundation; the Pocatello Animal Shelter; and ISU's College of Education.

(information provided by the Idaho State Journal)