DR. LARRY BERG AWARD FOR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

Dr. Larry Berg will be remembered for his commitment to bettering the lives of others, and in particular, for his dedication to introducing students to the world of politics and public service.

Dr. Berg joined the University of Southern California's Department of Political Science in 1969 and co-founded the USC Institute of Politics and Government (IPG) in 1978. In 1987, Dr. Berg and the late Joseph R. Cerrell secured the $1M gift that shifted the IPG to its current name – the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics. Dr. Berg’s commitment to students and learning were widely admired, and his leadership laid the foundation for the internships, conferences and guest lecture programs that make up the Unruh Institute today. Over the years, Dr. Berg’s foresight benefited thousands of students, many of whom have gone on to careers in politics, government, and public service.

Beginning in 2014, the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at USC will offer an annual award for a student or students who have demonstrated a strong interest in public service through their academic work, political involvement, and civic engagement. The Dr. Larry Berg Award will provide students with financial support to work on behalf of an elected official or cause that inspires them. The Award will continue Dr. Berg’s legacy of engaging students in public service.

During his time at USC, Dr. Berg was known for being an expert of California’s initiative process, as well as for publishing numerous works on corruption in the financing of judicial political campaigns in California. His tenure in politics is deeply admired – he served in many roles, including as a Board member of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), as a Robert F. Kennedy delegate to the 1968 Democratic National Convention, and as an advisor to Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D – ME); the author of the Federal Clean Air and Clean Water Acts.

Donations to the Dr. Larry Berg Award for Political Leadership may be made to USC’s Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics. This award will honor Dr. Berg’s work and inspire young people to continue his legacy of public service. Please make checks payable to the USC Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics and mail to: USC Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics, University Park Campus, Von KleinSmid Center (VKC) Room 263, Los Angeles, California 90089-0045. Alternatively, donations may be made online at dornsife.usc.edu/unruh by clicking on the “Give Now” link.