

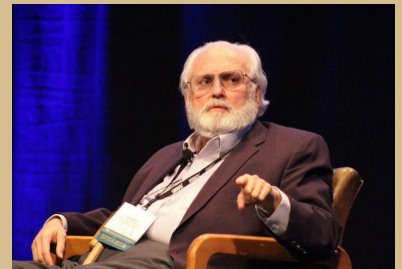
KARL Program Laments Loss of Legendary Leader Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh



Dr. Flinchbaugh with KARL Class XV, Leavenworth, February 2020

Longtime Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership champion and board member Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh passed away on November 2 at 78.

Flinchbaugh, Professor Emeritus at Kansas State University's Agriculture Economics Department, was a fervent supporter of the KARL Program and a driving force in the leadership program's conception.



"Kansas, and specifically the agriculture industry owes Dr. Flinchbaugh a debt of gratitude," said Steve Baccus, KARL board chair.

"Landing KARL as a Kansas State hosted entity would not have been possible 30 years ago without Dr. Flinchbaugh," said Jack Lindquist, who served as the Program's first president until his retirement in 2015. "He was instrumental in the program launch and its' early development years. He helped us build a legacy."

Lindquist added, **"His message to each class of leaders to live up to high expectations and model standards was second to none and always said that KARL was his best crop!"**

Flinchbaugh helped establish the KARL program by recruiting a group of Kansas agriculture leaders from the state's core ag organizations for the original KARL board of directors. Ray Purdy served as a charter member of that first board of directors and said Flinchbaugh had a "never-ending support" for the Program he helped shape.

"KARL, Kansas State, and the world lost a great man today," said Purdy. **"He was a leader, mentor, and friend to me, the board of directors and classes. He will be greatly missed."**

Upon learning about his passing, charter board member Florence Metcalf reflected on Flinchbaugh's many good memories and the start-up of KARL.

"KARL would never have happened without Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh's vision and leadership. Barry was committed to educating agricultural leaders in Kansas. He was instrumental in raising funds, recruiting class members and board members, and developing program goals and objectives. He will be greatly missed by all of us in the KARL family," said Metcalf.



" Leadership needs two things - **CIVILITY** and **COMPROMISE**. Today, compromise is a dirty word. The word compromise is the only way we can live together in the modern world. But it takes a real leader to compromise."

Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh

Admiration for Flinchbaugh runs deep through the KARL network. Flinchbaugh, a renowned and sought-after speaker, did not mince words, nor did he hold back in providing his keen expertise on the inner workings of agriculture policy. KARL Fellows dating back to the early classes were enamored by his sharp wit and perspective, giving his now-famous "Kings and Kingmakers" presentation.

For many of the associates in the room, it was a repeat from his Ag Policy 410 class so many sat through years before in Waters Hall at Kansas State, a course he was still teaching virtually until his untimely passing. To his students, the message was clear:

"Keep learning. Keep pushing. Be uncomfortable. Think outside the box, and occasionally you'll make somebody mad, but that's a risk you take, but they'll remember what you said!"

"He [Flinchbaugh] was a true kingmaker in the agriculture industry," said Jill Zimmerman, KARL president and Class V Fellow. "He was small in stature, great in character and intellect, his wisdom, wit, and perspective were a gift to those within earshot. KARL will not be the same without him, but what we have gained from his legendary leadership is priceless and will live on for decades through the KARL family," Zimmerman added.

All KARL classes since the inception of the Program have heard the kings and kingmakers presentation from the highly regarded Flinchbaugh. It could not have been known at the time in February that Class XV would be his last.

Current KARL Associate Kim Baldwin of Inman shared this reflection, "While he kept my attention with his thought-provoking dialogue and jokes, I truly appreciated conversations with Dr. Flinchbaugh because he treated me as if I were his equal. **During my interactions with him through KARL, it was evident that he truly valued investing in others regardless of their age, gender, profession, or political status.**"

Baldwin added, "because of our conversations, I have concluded that how Dr. Flinchbaugh treated and spoke to me was the same way he treated and spoke to any politician or dignitary. He was a cerebral-minded straight-talker who presented his thoughts with respect while also inquiring about what I thought."

A native of Pennsylvania, Flinchbaugh earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Penn State before earning a doctorate from Purdue. He came to Kansas State in 1971, where he put Kansas State and its agriculture economics program on the map and made it the standard in the development of policy both statewide and nationwide.

He brought his expertise to the classroom and the board room. In both places, he preached compromise and common sense. He gave his career to making agriculture better to making Kansas better. He counseled everyday leaders and kings of the industry alike. He was the quintessential kingmaker.

He will be missed, but the Flinchbaugh "Kings and Kingmakers" legacy lives on through the KARL Family who serves Kansas, the nation and our world.

"A GIFT can be made to KARL, Inc. in memory of Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, who was legendary in bringing KARL to the forefront. Give online at <http://karlprogram.com>

