

# In Memorium: Dr. Ronald Horvath, former acting president, passes

September 24, 2015

Dr. Ronald J. Horvath, who served as acting president of SUNY Broome in the 1970s, died Sept. 3 in Louisville, KY at the age of 76.

Horvath began his career as an English teacher at Parkland High School in Allentown, Pa., later becoming a professor and administrator at Lehigh County Community College and then an administrator at what was then called Broome Community College.

In 1975, the college's second president, Sigmund A. Smith, resigned after two years on the job. Horvath became acting president on May 9, and then was replaced as interim president by Gary Reddig on August 4 of that year. It was the same year Horvath became president of Jefferson Community College in Louisville, where he remained until his retirement in 1995.

Professor Doug Garnar remembered asking Horvath how long he expected to remain Broome's acting president.

"He told me that, typically, people stay in his position for three to five years," he remembered. "And then he went to Jefferson and stayed for twenty!"

According to his obituary, "Ron was a strong believer that the community college belongs to the community."

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