

Mildred Johnson, Computer Pioneer

Her Legacy: Pursuing excellence in higher education

Mildred Johnson, a long-time professor at Colorado State University, was a strong advocate for vocational education. She taught business communication at the university; during her time there she conducted research in conjunction with Bell Laboratories on computer text analysis of business writing. With a \$300,000 grant, she opened the first laboratory of its type at the university.

She consulted for Allyn and Bacon, Houghton Mifflin and Scott Foresman and Company and for programs at the university, including the office of special programs, as well as the Colorado Vocational Education Association. She received numerous awards for her pioneering work.

An initiate into the honor society Phi Kappa Phi, she served on the executive committee for eight years and was involved in CSU's annual programs for student honorees.

A Rotarian, she was also honored by Rotarians for her work in helping to create the Gardens at Spring Creek. She served as president of the Breakfast Rotary Club, from which she received the Rotarian of the Year award in 1991, and was a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow.

Mildred also served on the Fort Collins Symphony board of directors and was active in a local Questers Club, through which she worked to help restore the Upper Boxelder schoolhouse. An active member of the First Presbyterian Church, she was a supporter of the Colorado Nature Conservancy and volunteered with the Fort Collins Audubon Society, the American Red Cross, and Girl Scouts, among other organizations.

Throughout her long life, Mildred Johnson exemplified living life to the fullest while serving her community.

Written by Barbara Fleming, Author, Coloradoan Columnist and Living Her Legacy Wordsmith