



UC San Diego Foundation Trustee



Ernest Rady

Ernest Rady has been keeping an eye on UC San Diego since moving to the area in 1966, first as an observer and, in more recent years, as active contributor to the university as both advisor and philanthropist. His reason for involvement is straightforward: “I think UCSD is an exceptional institution; it’s amazing what gets accomplished there. I’ve watched UCSD all these years and it keeps coming up a winner.”

In 2004, Ernest helped launch a new enterprise on campus that rapidly attained winner status: a graduate school of management that has proven to be among the university’s most successful “town and gown” undertakings. With well-considered input from community leaders, a strong dean and faculty, and with a leadership gift from Ernest, the Rady School of Management enrolled its first class of MBA students in ’04, and awarded the first diplomas in ’06.

As Chair of the Rady Advisory Council, Ernest is a hands-on participant in the school’s development, though he’s quick to give credit for its rapid rise to Dean Robert Sullivan. Ernest and his wife Evelyn are also Chancellor’s Associates at UC San Diego. Off campus, Ernest serves as a Trustee of the Salk Institute for Biological Sciences and is a Trustee of Scripps Health. A past Chairman and Treasurer of Children’s Hospital and Health Center of San Diego, in 2006 the hospital was renamed Rady Children’s Hospital in recognition of his donation, the largest in the medical center’s history. Ernest’s charitable focus is the health and well-being of children, education and scientific research.

Ernest was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada. He attended the University of Manitoba and earned degrees in Commerce and Law, earning the Law Society Award for Academic Achievement, the University Gold Medal in Commerce and membership in the Manitoba Bar Association.

In the 1960s, Ernest founded American Assets, Inc., a privately held conglomerate. Through American Assets, he controls and manages a group of companies primarily involved in financial services, investment management and real estate. He also founded Westcorp, a NYSE traded financial services holding company that was acquired by Wachovia Corporation in 2006; Ernest then became a member of the Board of Directors of Wachovia. He has been a Director of numerous companies, including La Jolla Bank and Trust Company, La Jolla Capital, Pacific Capital Trading Corporation, Dixieline Lumber Company, Smith Petroleum Company and KHC Plastics.

In addition to his nonprofit work, Mr. Rady is also active in numerous business organizations, including World President’s Organization and Visage (formally T.E.C., The Executive Committee).