Stine, professor emeritus, added to JCCC Wall of Honor

Johnson County Community College honored Dick Stine, professor emeritus, speech, as the 2009 inductee to the Wall of Honor during a reception Aug. 12 in the Carlsen Center lobby. The Wall of Honor was initiated in 2001 to recognize retired JCCC faculty, staff and administrators for distinguished service to the college.

Stine, De Soto, retired in spring 2008 after 37 years of service to JCCC, where he started the intercollegiate debate program and coached for 20 years. He was twice elected president of the National Community College Speech and Debate Association and received the organization’s Distinguished Service Award. His students won the national tournament eight times. Stine started the National Junior Division Debate Tournament in 1976, the oldest junior division tournament in the country. The annual traveling trophy, the Dick Stine Coach Award, was named in his honor in 2008.

Stine has been awarded the Distinguished Service Award at JCCC on four separate occasions. He was nominated for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Teaching Award on five occasions and won that distinction three times. He was twice declared Innovator of the Year from the League for Innovation in the Community College for his applications of technology in preparing and grading speeches. In 1995, he was awarded Kansas Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation.

Stine’s passion has always been for oral communication and helping others improve their talents. He transitioned from high school teaching to college teaching in order to have the time and support of JCCC to further his ideas for projects. Those projects have included the publication of two textbooks, The Public Speaking Process and (co-author) Public Speaking for Personal Success, and Take Big Steps, a look at the generation who experienced the Great Depression, Dust Bowl years, World War II and post-war recovery featuring the lives of his parents. He has published speech-grading software for public speaking and a software grader for English composition. A recognized scholar in communication, he has presented at more than 20 conferences.

A valuable member of the college, he served on and chaired numerous committees and task forces. He participated in the Master Teacher Workshop and had leadership positions for the workshop for eight years. His voice is well known as the public address announcer for basketball games and track meets, serving in that capacity since 1972. He is also valued as an individual who read the graduation names of students from 1973 until his retirement.

Stine’s work extends beyond the college. He co-founded and continues to work with the JCCC chapter of “Christmas in October,” a program which helps improve the homes of financially needy Kansas City citizens.

Stine was nominated for the Wall of Honor by speech and debate faculty. Though retired, Stine teaches in the speech program as a professor emeritus.