



Bruce Furness

Class of 1957

Bruce Furness is a 1957 Bismarck High graduate. Following graduation, Bruce attended Jamestown College (now UJ) and Montana State University. He worked with IBM for 30 years in several locations before joining Greater North Dakota Association (GNDA) in 1992, where he managed Vision 2000, working with strategic planning and membership development.

Bruce served nine years on the Fargo School Board and was President in 1980-81. Bruce was elected to the Fargo City Commission in 1992 and served as Mayor of Fargo from 1994 to 2006. As Mayor, he also led the community through the historic flood of 1997 and 2000, and the subsequent recoveries.

He was employed by Bell Bank until March 2008 when he was appointed by Governor Hoeven as interim CEO of the North Dakota Workforce Safety and Insurance agency through March 2009.

Bruce has served with many civic organizations including: UJ Board of Trustees, MeritCare Health System Board of Trustees, State Health Council, Consensus Council and as a Director of the National Board of American Diabetes Association. He has served as Chair of the Fargo Chamber of Commerce, Red River Zoo, UJ Alumni Association, United Way, Fargo Renaissance Zone Authority, and North Dakota League of Cities.

Before retirement, his activities included serving on the boards of Bell Banks, Lake Agassiz Water Authority, Metro Sports Foundation and the Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation. He has been a longtime member of the Fargo Lions Club and the Fargo Chamber of Commerce.

Bruce has received several awards including: Sertoma Service to Mankind Award, GNDA Community Leadership Award, Greater North Dakotan Award, the Fargo-Moorhead-West Fargo Chamber Legacy Leader Award and was a Melvin Jones Fellow of Lions International.

He and his wife, Lorraine, are parents of four grown children and eleven grandchildren.

