

Yuba College 2004 Alumni of the Year Award
BOB BARKHOUSE
Alumnus of the Year, 2004

*Presentation given by Mr. Gene Bellisario at Yuba College, Marysville, graduation - May 28, 2004.
Bellisario was Yuba College Foundation Board President from Fall, 2003 through Fall, 2005*

A person can have a real problem trying to introduce someone like Bob Barkhouse. The problem is that Bob has done so many things, achieved so many results, and influenced so many people that you really don't know where to begin.

When we first identified Bob as a candidate for Alumni of the Year, the comment that came out again and again was that Bob had served several times as Mayor of Yuba City. While that may be true, it took several readings of his resume to even find any reference to his service as mayor. So many other accomplishments jumped off the page - he has built homes, manufactured midget race car parts, authored an automotive book, has farmed, has been a teacher for several decades, and has started or served on scores of statewide and community commissions and task forces.

Here at Yuba College Bob served in various faculty roles for close to 34 years. He was full-time for 26 years, chairing the Automotive program. At the same time, he taught Engineering and can be credited with starting the Electronics program. His additional part-time service, teaching evening courses here, extended his service to 34 years. Bob built the automotive program that Mike Morse admirably manages today.

And yes, Bob was Mayor - three times in fact. In this role, he advocated for economic development, was similarly influential in improving community relationships with Beale Air Force Base, worked for improved air quality, and has maintained a working concern for improved transportation in the Yuba-Sutter area.

In more recent years, Bob has become increasingly active at the State and Federal levels, serving in leadership roles on numerous boards and commissions, related primarily to automotive education. Bob, for example, served as one of 16 individuals chosen nationwide to participate on a task force assigned to revise the National Automotive Training Evaluation system. Additionally, he served on the Chancellor's Community College state advisory board for vocational education for 25 years, and has been Executive Director of the California Auto Teachers for 13 years. In recognition of these efforts, Bob was also once selected as the State of California's Community College Automotive Teacher of the Year.

And finally . . . I've saved the best for last . . . Bob still holds the fastest elapsed time ever run in the world with a top fuel sand dragster.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the Yuba College 2004 Alumni of the Year, Bob Barkhouse.