

Global Citizen UNA Leadership in Michigan Award

No one could be more deserving than Lyndon Babcock of being the first recipient of **the Global Citizen UNA Leadership in Michigan Award**. Lyndon earned a degree in chemical engineering at Michigan Technological University. Later he earned a master's degree in that same field. His work was in developing polymers, and he was granted a patent for some of his discoveries.

Early in his career Lyndon developed strong roots in social justice and intense interest in international affairs. He became interested in environmental issues in the days before there was an Environmental Protection Agency. Recognizing the serious problem with air quality, the federal government selected fifty people across the nation to engage in environmental studies concentrated on air pollution. Lyndon was one of those 50, and he earned a PhD in civil engineering and designation as an environmental engineer. Offered an associate professorship at the University of Illinois in Chicago, Lyndon joined the faculty where he had a joint appointment in the engineering school and the nascent School of Public Health. Two years later he became a tenured professor and director of Environmental and Health Sciences.

Air pollution at that time was beginning to be recognized as a serious problem throughout the world, and Lyndon's expertise as an environmental engineer opened doors for him to visit and work in a number of different countries. He was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to introduce air quality management in Turkey where he spent a school year training Turkish engineers for this work. While there, he also traveled to India to share his environmental expertise. After

returning to teaching, the US State Department selected him in 1981 to accompany a group of scientists on a trip to China. He later returned to China with funding from the World Health Organization to lecture in various Chinese cities. Funding from the US Information Agency allowed Lyndon to do work in Japan and Korea as part of President Eisenhower's initiative to bring the benefits of international engagement to American citizens and institutions by helping them build strong long-term relationships with their counterparts overseas. The Inter-American Development Bank funded Lyndon's work in Santiago, Chile where he was responsible for advising on air pollution problems. He also worked in Mexico for over two years, work he considers his biggest success because he was able to interest a number of Mexican students to apply for Fulbright's to study in the United States. One of his students now heads up a major UN-funded environmental agency in South America.

After retiring from the university in 1990, Lyndon lived in several other states before returning to Michigan. He became involved with the Michigan Division of UNA-USA in 1990 while living in Berrien County, Michigan, becoming president of it in 2008. After moving to Lansing in 2003, Lyndon joined the Greater Lansing chapter of UNA-USA where he served for some years on the board. In 2004, Lyndon began a very active Model UN program at Eastern High School with its significant proportion of international students. He met regularly with the Model UN students and coordinated trips for them to various conferences around the state. In 2011, after Lynn Khadija, the dynamic teacher he partnered with for the Model UN Club, took a job in another state, Lyndon regretfully resigned from this work due to his health. He still maintains contact with some of the students, one

of whom, a refugee from Somalia, is now studying law at the University of Michigan.

Despite severely declining health, Lyndon has remained a faithful and committed supporter of UNA-USA and the United Nations and an inspiration to many. He still holds a special place in his heart for Model UN and the many opportunities provided to the students who participate. Lyndon firmly believes that a better world is possible through the work of the UN. He sees UNA-USA as an essential advocate and supporter of the UN, and he is proud to have maintained his membership in that organization for almost 30 years.