

2016 Dickson Awardee: Ruth Covell

Dr. Ruth Covell Earned her undergraduate degree from Stanford University and her M.D. degree from the University of Chicago. A devoted educator, scholar and administrator, Dr. Ruth Covell joined the university in 1969 as UC San Diego School of Medicine welcomed its first class of students. She has had a longstanding career on campus, retiring as associate dean of UC San Diego



School of Medicine in 2013. Her accomplishments include spearheading the establishment of the Academic Geriatric Resource Center and serving as its Director from 1988-2010.

Dr. Covell was cited for a wide range of activities since retirement, and was honored with the Edward A. Dickson Award for her commitment to serving students, promoting faculty development and supporting the community. These include four years as a mentor in the Emeriti Mentor Program for Chancellor's Scholars, in which she also generously awards a scholarship to help support one Chancellor's Scholar's dreams of studying abroad, service on an intensive junior faculty development program, and clinical work in family medicine. She is extremely active and devoted to a host of community organizations, including the San Ysidro Health Centers, which operates integrated health centers across San Diego's lower-income communities and provides over 450,000 patient visits a year; she also currently serves on the board of the Epilepsy Foundation, San Diego Border Area Health Education Center, Project Concern International, Mental Health America, Women's Empowerment, La Jolla Historical Society and the National Center of Leadership in Academic Medicine program.

In 2012, Dr. Covell received the Distinguished Service Award of the University of Chicago Division of Medical and Biological Sciences, and in 2013 "Ruth Covell Day" was proclaimed by the City of San Diego in honor of her services to the community.