



ROBERT LAPINER, PH.D.

Professor of Higher Education and Dean Emeritus, School of Professional Studies, New York University

Robert's lifework has centered on expanding educational opportunities and promoting international understanding.

Besides teaching and keeping up with his research as professor at the NYU School of Professional Studies (SPS) since 2006; he is active in school and university affairs, including serving as an officer of the University Senate's Tenured/Tenure -Track Faculty Senators Council.

At NYU he has also held executive leadership positions—as university-wide Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Continuing Education, and before that, as Dean of SPS. As dean, Robert directed the transformation of the school. He raised its academic standing, enlarged its faculty, advanced the internationalization of its curriculum and its student body, grew its graduate programs and enrollments substantially, and (aided immeasurably by donor-advocates) secured authorization to acquire SPS's first-ever dedicated campus classroom and administrative home—built on budget.

Before NYU, Robert was at UCLA for almost 16 years. As Dean of Continuing Education and UCLA Extension, he pushed the adoption of creative uses for emerging technologies by initiating UCLA Extension's Online Learning program, and saw it become the pre-eminent program of its kind in California. He shaped UCLA Extension's widely influential standards for post-baccalaureate study and ground-breaking efforts to have faculty incorporate professional ethics and multicultural and global perspectives throughout its vast curricula. And he expanded UCLA's public service outreach, from regional workforce development projects to K-6 teacher training directed toward historically underserved populations.

Before L.A., the world. In 1976, as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer in cultural, educational and press affairs, he was posted to The Hague, then Kinshasa and Paris. (While serving in the Democratic Republic of Congo, he became a visiting professor at the National University in Lubumbashi, pro bono). In 1982, he left the diplomatic corps for the private sector to become Director for Europe for the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE)—and subsequently, worldwide Deputy Executive Director. He expanded the organization across Europe exponentially, growing its staff to provide diverse academic services to approximately 30,000 students, faculty, and administrators annually. Conferences and workshops that he and colleagues conceived and implemented seeded university-based global partnerships and increased student mobility on six continents. (Such efforts led to the creation of the European Association for International Education, of which he is a founding member). He also worked with the Fulbright program in seven countries—including eight years as a dedicated Board member of the Franco-American Commission for Educational Exchange.