



ROBERT LAPINER, PH.D.

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

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

Apart from his teaching and research and service as a University Senator at NYU, he held executive leadership positions as Dean of SPS (appointed in 2005), then as university-wide Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Continuing Education (until 2013). As dean, Robert initiated SPS's transformation. He raised its academic standing, enlarged its full-time faculty, advanced the internationalization of its curriculum and its student body, expanded its undergraduate and graduate programs, and (aided immeasurably by donor-advocates) secured authorization to acquire SPS's first-ever dedicated campus classroom and administrative home—built on budget and on schedule.

Prior to NYU, the University of California, Los Angeles. Beginning in 1990, Robert led UCLA Continuing Education and University Extension, then the largest single academic division in the entire University of California system—and the largest vector for international students at UCLA. He pioneered UCLA Extension's Online Learning program, seeing it become at the time California's pre-eminent program of its kind. He shaped widely influential international standards for post-baccalaureate study and initiated what were then ground-breaking efforts to incorporate the teaching of professional ethics and multicultural and global perspectives throughout all of UCLA Extension's vast curricula. His efforts to expand UCLA's public service outreach—from regional workforce development projects to K-6 teacher training directed toward historically underserved populations, to the first research-university based post-secondary program for developmentally disabled young adults—earned regional and national awards for impact and innovation.

Before UCLA, the World. In 1976, as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer in cultural, educational and press affairs, Robert 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 joined the private non-profit 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 professional 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. (One such effort led to the creation of the European Association for International Education, of which he is a founding member).

Not the least: during his 15 years in Europe and Africa, Robert worked with the Fulbright program in seven countries—including eight years as a dedicated Board member of the binational Franco-American Commission for Educational Exchange.