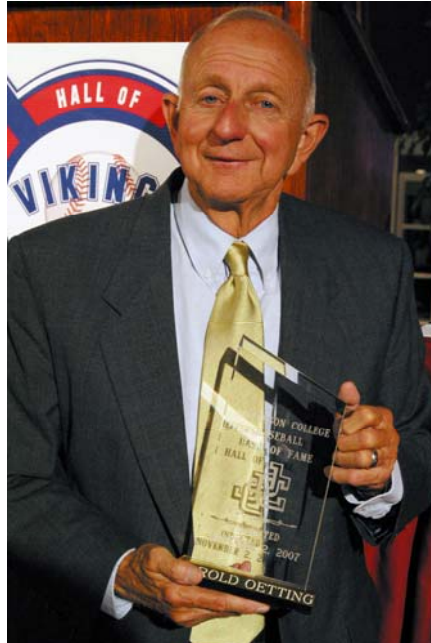


**Former Jefferson College Athletics Director Harold Oetting
Selected for NJCAA Region 16 Hall of Fame**



Following an illustrious 36-year career at Jefferson College as Head Baseball Coach, Assistant Basketball Coach, Physical Education Faculty, and Athletic Director, Harold Oetting has been selected to the NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) Region 16 Hall of Fame.

Oetting is the fifth member of the regional hall, joining Bob Sechrest of Mineral Area College, Fred Pohlman of Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley, Celest Kneiram of St. Louis Community College-Meramec, and Bill Miller of St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley.

He graduated from St. Charles High School in 1958 and earned a bachelor's degree from Appalachian State University and a master's degree from the University of Central Missouri.

In 1966, he was hired as Jefferson College's head baseball and assistant basketball coach, and was subsequently named the institution's first athletics director in 1968, where he became the longest serving AD in the college's 46-year history, retiring in 2002. During his tenure, Oetting was instrumental in initiating the sports of women's basketball, men's tennis and volleyball, as Jefferson College earned a national reputation for athletic excellence.

Oetting helped organize the Midwest Community College Athletic Conference and served 30 years as president or vice president. He chaired or served on numerous committees at the national level with the NJCAA. He also served as NJCAA Region 16 Assistant Director or Director from 1972-2006. Prior to his retirement, Oetting served on the USA Baseball Board of Directors. He also served as the Chairman of the NJCAA Baseball Committee and represented the association at NJCAA Division I World Series events.

He was named NACDA *Athletic Director of the Year* in 2001-2002 and was selected as *Outstanding Educator of the Year* by American Colleges and Universities. He also received the *NJCAA Service Award*. Oetting was inducted into the Jefferson College Baseball Hall of Fame in 2007 and the Jefferson College Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 2009.

He officiated high school football, basketball, baseball, and volleyball for more than 40 years. He also officiated college basketball for 31 years. His expertise was at such a level that he was chosen to officiate the NJCAA National Championship Tournament in 1988 and 1989.

Oetting has actively served his community of Festus via the City Council, R-6 School Board, Little League Baseball, Police Personnel Board, and Chamber of Commerce. He served a four-year term as Mayor of Festus and was named *Citizen of the Year* in 1997.

He is known widely as a "gentleman's gentleman," and his contributions to Jefferson College, NJCAA and Region 16, Festus, Missouri, and humanity are enormous.