

William Ouchi-BiographyBiographical Statement of William Ouchi

January 25, 2016

Bill Ouchi retired from the UCLA Anderson School of Management at the end of June, 2015, and was then recalled to active duty, 43% time, as Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. There, he continues his work of the past six years in creating a new Ecosystem within which faculty and staff entrepreneurs in medicine can turn their inventions into practical realities that reach the outside world to help patients.

Ouchi's lifetime research has focused on one issue: how can big, complex organizations be re-structured and managed so as to be more successful? He has studied a variety of organizations, including federal agencies, retail chain stores, semiconductor, computer, and telecommunications companies, automobile manufacturers, Japanese companies, and urban school districts. He has served as consultant to urban districts that sought to decentralize, including New York City, San Diego, Honolulu, and Colorado.

Ouchi has written three books and several academic articles that summarize his study of the organizational structure and management of the school districts of Edmonton, Boston, New York City, St. Paul, Houston, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, Tokyo, and Los Angeles, all of which had decentralized or were attempting to do so. His team of eleven researchers visited hundreds of schools and more than a thousand classrooms. He found that large school districts, like large companies, thrive when they adopt decentralization of decision-making that empowers each school. He also found that every one of these U.S. districts had closely studied the decentralization system that has been successful in Edmonton, Alberta, for more than forty years.

Ouchi is a graduate of Punahou School in Honolulu (1961), and of Williams College (B.A.), Stanford University (M.B.A.), and The University of Chicago (Ph.D.). He has been on the faculty at the University of Chicago, Stanford, and for the longest tenure at UCLA. He has been active throughout his career in helping the poor and the disadvantaged. While he was Vice Dean for Executive Education at UCLA's Anderson School, he initiated leadership programs for African-American Leaders, for Latino Leaders, for Women Leaders, for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Leaders, for Asian-Pacific American Leaders, and for the faculties of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) of the U.S.

Ouchi also believes in charter schools as proof that empowered schools in poor neighborhoods can produce great results. He is a founding board member of The Los Angeles Alliance, a nonprofit operator of 27 charter schools in Watts, South-Central, and East Los Angeles. The 12,000 students are 99% Latino or African-American and 95% from low-income families. The average entering Alliance ninth-grade student tests at the fourth grade in reading and math. Nonetheless, 95% graduate on time, and of these, 99% are admitted to four-year colleges.

Ouchi serves on the boards of directors of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the Richard Riordan Foundation, and is a former board member of the California Community Foundation. In the private sector, he is a board member of Sempra Energy, AECOM, and has served on the boards of nine companies over the past thirty-five years. Ouchi served during 1993-95 as Chief of Staff to former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan. He and his wife live in Santa Monica, surrounded by their three grown children and five grandchildren who live in Los Angeles.

