

Charles Ruch

Dr. Charles Ruch became the 17th President of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology on July 1, 2003.

Ruch has master's and doctorate degrees in education from Northwestern University and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from The College of Wooster (Ohio). Before joining South Dakota Tech, Dr. Ruch served as President at Boise State University for 10 years. Previously, Ruch spent 19 years at Virginia Commonwealth University, first as an associate dean and dean, and as provost and vice president. His first university assignment came at the University of Pittsburgh, where he was a faculty member and department chair.

An active participant in higher education organizations, Dr. Ruch has chaired the Urban and Metropolitan Universities Committee for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. He has also served on the presidents' councils of the Big Sky, Big West, and Western Athletic conferences and as chair of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

Dr. Ruch's professional activities also include participation in the American Council on Education, the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, and the National Council on Accreditation for Teacher Education. Dr. Ruch has written and edited numerous articles, book reviews, and book chapters, and has delivered Congressional testimony.

In every community he has joined, Dr. Ruch has been active in organizations and efforts to make those communities better places to live. He has continued that effort in Rapid City, especially when it comes to economic development. In that critical area, he has prioritized using expertise on campus to build an even brighter regional economic future. Since joining Tech, Dr. Ruch also has opened lines of communication with the community through a bi-weekly e-letter, begun a strategic planning process, and created numerous partnerships to improve Tech, the community, the state, and the region.

Dr. Ruch credits his success to the ongoing support from his wife, Sally, their four grown children, and three grandchildren.