

William L. McKee

Bill McKee grew up in a Missouri Ozarks farm family that moved to town for work on the railroad. With that came the privilege of working his way through college in the railroad yards - mostly on the graveyard shift.

Growing up in a household focused on his father's job, he was always curious about work. Unable to follow his dream of pitching in the majors, he graduated with economics and math degrees but took every available course in labor-employment economics and labor relations.

Lieutenant McKee served for two years in the US Army between graduate degrees. Despite two sets of orders to Viet Nam, he never shipped. He completed graduate studies at the University of Missouri then taught at Mizzou and Kentucky State University before receiving a post-doctoral appointment at the Brookings Institution as a Staff Associate in Employment Policy.

In 1978 McKee joined the faculty of the University of North Texas as Assistant Professor of Applied Economics and stayed for 33 years. Along the way he held several positions, including department chair and chair of the faculty senate before becoming the Executive Assistant to the Chancellor. When later forced to choose between administration and arbitration, McKee went back to teaching, research, other part-time administrative positions, **and arbitrating**. For the past 13 years he has been Professor Emeritus of Applied Economics.

Bill was selected as the NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative of the Year by the All-American Football Foundation in 2003 and was elected to the Texas Labor Management Conference Hall of Fame in 2004. In May 2023, he became President of the National Academy of Arbitrators.