

Peter Drucker to William Edwards Deming

May 19, 1976

Dear Ed :

I am unhappy that I cannot join all your GBA friends at this reception to honor you at your retirement. I am too far away and will not be able to attend. But I do not want to let this occasion go by without conveying to you my very warmest wishes. You already were one of the stars and leaders at GBA when I joined the faculty in 1950. And from the beginning, I looked to you and to a few of the seniors of the time for inspiration, for guidance, and above all for standards. What I have learned from your example is beyond measurement - and cannot possibly be sampled, not even unscientifically. But the example you gave all of us - in your concern for the individual student ; in your kindness towards the new and young faculty members ; and in your complete uncompromising integrity of standards and insistence on principles. It was inspiration, guidance, and a constant source of renewals for me and of pride in being privileged to be associated with you.

And so I am joining with all your friends, students and admirers today in wishing you the very best for your retirement - I know it will be an active one, a productive one, and I hope a healthy and a very long one. If only I were good enough to write a Canticle of Praise and Thanksgivings for William Edwards Deming.

In old friendship,

As always, yours

Peter Drucker