



PANHANDLE STATE
FOUNDATION



Denver Talley Award of Excellence

Est. 1989

Denver Talley was born and raised on a farm in Murray County. Upon graduation from Wynnewood High School at age 17 he enrolled at Cameron College where he was active in student government and graduated Phi Theta Kappa. It was there that Denver met and married Melba Hall. Upon graduation from Cameron, Denver enrolled at PAMC where he was again active in student government by serving as a student supreme court justice. Denver also served as Agronomy Club president and upon graduation with a B.S. in Agronomy in 1960, was awarded the National Society of Agronomy Student Award as well as awards for the outstanding graduate in the Agronomy division and the outstanding Agronomy Club Member.

After graduating in May of 1960, he returned to his home town of Wynnewood and for five years worked in private business. In 1965 he took a job with the Oklahoma State Health Department assigned to Grady County. He attended the University of Oklahoma and obtained a master's degree in 1968 and a Doctorate of Public Health in 1973. That same year Talley joined the Oklahoma Department of Pollution Control as Assistant Director and served that department until 1978, the

last three years as the Director of the agency. He served as state representative in the legislature from 1978 to 1990. He holds the distinction of being the only freshman legislature ever to serve as chairman of an appropriation sub-committee and handle money legislation on the floor of the house. Talley served on the legislative leadership team and held many committee positions. He rejoined the Oklahoma State Department of Health in January of 1991 as Deputy Commissioner of Local Health.

In 1989, Mr. Talley established the Denver Talley Award of Excellence Scholarship. This scholarship is given annually to a needy and deserving sophomore, junior, or senior student in agriculture.