

# DON BRANN, ED.D.

## Biography

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Don Brann was born in Los Angeles at the end of World War II. His parents divorced before he was two and he resided with his mother and her parents near the Coliseum and attended Normandie Avenue School. In 1953, his family relocated to Hawthorne and Don began as a third grader a more than 60 year connection with the Wiseburn School District.

In 1963, Don graduated from Hawthorne High School and then became the first one in his family to attend college by enrolling at El Camino College. After earning the AA Degree, he was accepted into USC's School of Business, graduating in 1968. Not stopping at the Bachelor's, Don went to CSULA for a Master's Degree in Elementary Education before returning to USC to earn an Ed.D. Degree in Administration in 1982.

After several teaching and administrative assignments, at age 34, Don was appointed to the first of six superintendencies spanning more than 30 years. He led public school districts in Lancaster, Petaluma and Placerville before returning to his alma mater, Wiseburn, for fifteen years. He left a legacy there of excellence in student achievement created through his visionary leadership and entrepreneurial spirit. Today, Dr. Don Brann is considered the "Father of the Wiseburn School District" for his legendary record of success. In March, 2013, the new Burnett Multi-purpose Building was named the "Don and Sari Brann Center."

Several years after retiring from Wiseburn, Dr. Brann began an encore career as Interim Superintendent of San Gabriel Unified followed by an appointment as State Trustee in Inglewood Unified. In two plus years there, his Team balanced the budget and eliminated the long standing deficit, thus moving the district back toward local control. He was honored by Pepperdine University as "Superintendent of the Year." Also, Dr. Brann was selected as "One of the Top 100 School Leaders in North America."

Dr. Brann founded the California Small School Districts' Association in 1982, and continues to serve on its Executive Committee. He has extensive experience working with school district governing boards seeking new superintendents. Additionally, Dr. Don Brann is a Professor at LMU in the Graduate School and works with the Beach Cities League of Women Voters on Studies/Programs.

In 2008, Dr. Brann founded the Da Vinci Charter schools, today comprised of the K-8 Innovation Academy and three 515 seat high schools--Communications, Design and Science. Da Vinci's smart and healthy culture in a learn by doing approach is recognized internationally as exemplary. It's unprecedented success has resulted in overwhelming demand for seats by students/families across Southern California.

First in 2008 and then again in 2016, Don Brann was elected to a seat on the El Segundo City Council. He works with the League of California Cities and the Independent Cities Association. Don has championed the Community Garden, Aging in Place Villages and economic development opportunities.

Don and Sari started their 55 year relationship in high school and they are the parents of two daughters, both working in public schools, and proud grandparents of one 8 year old grandson. Sari and Don like to travel, to walk, to follow USC football, to attend concerts, to watch basketball and baseball games, to volunteer in the community and to spend time with family.