Dr. Russell F. Jerd served Sinclair for 20 years, including serving as the dean of the Engineering & Industrial Technologies Division from 1970 to 1985. He was instrumental in developing several associate degree programs and initiatives that resulted in tremendous growth for the division during his tenure. Dr. Jerd was always very supportive of Sinclair, and its Engineering & Industrial Technologies Division in particular. He was a great supporter and a good friend of the division.

Among his contributions Dr. Jerd and his wife established the Russell F. and Edith Oyer Jerd Engineering Innovation Award, which is offered to individuals or teams of full-time faculty and staff. The award is funded by a $150,000 endowment donated by Dr. and Mrs. Jerd to the EIT division. Dr. Russ Jerd passed away November 9, 2002.