



Raised on a 102-acre dairy farm in Wisconsin, Ron Trewyn was trained and employed as an accountant prior to starting college at Wisconsin State University–Whitewater (WSU-W) in January 1964. Becoming intrigued with marine biology, he transferred to the University of Hawaii in 1965, but after 2-years concluded it wasn't his calling. Taking a semester off to decide what academic path to pursue, he ended up having more time when his draft notice arrived 2-days before Christmas in 1967.

Following Army basic and advanced infantry training, he attended the NCO candidate course in place during the Vietnam War, graduating as a Staff Sergeant, E-6. He then served in Vietnam with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade in 1969 until shrapnel near his heart ended his combat tour prematurely. Discharged after only 19-months on active duty, he nearly reenlisted when welcomed home to incessant, rabid hatred.

Enduring the hostility, he completed his bachelor's degree, Magna cum Laude, at WSU-W (now the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater) in 1970. A month later he enrolled in graduate school at Oregon State University, earning a Ph.D. in microbial physiology, biochemistry and genetics in 1974.

After 4-years of postdoctoral cancer research at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, he was a professor of medical biochemistry at Ohio State University for 16-years (1978-94). He guided research on cancer development, diagnostics and therapeutics as a member of the Comprehensive Cancer Center, while directing the center's tumor procurement service, teaching biochemistry to medical students and mentoring graduate students. Becoming involved in military veteran advocacy, he and his colleagues exposed employment discrimination against Vietnam-era veterans on campus in violation of federal law, as confirmed by the U.S. Department of Labor.

He assumed a research administration position at Kansas State University in 1994 and served in multiple leadership roles over the next 28-years. Those included: President of the KSU Research Foundation; Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School; and Vice President for Research. Recruited for his cancer expertise to serve on federal Agent Orange committees, he helped disclose analytical defects in a 25-year, \$145 million Air Force veterans' health study which led to an interview by Ted Koppel on *Nightline*. He had a principal role in winning a national site selection that brought the \$1.25 billion National Bio and Agro-defense Facility to the Kansas State campus and he retired in 2022 as Vice President for Research Emeritus.