

strates the great purpose, the great acceptance of and demand for the two-year institution of higher education.

In September of 1961, enrollment for the college's first academic year was 270 students. Five years later, the enrollment had leaped to 913 students. This year, with the advent of the new campus, I understand that the enrollment has increased to more than 1400, and that within five years this figure is expected to double.

The new campus has not only enabled the college to expand its enrollment and curricula but has modified its character as an institution. The transition from a late afternoon-evening college to a full daytime and evening program will be accompanied by an increase in the fulltime student population.

The new campus will also enable the college to function more effectively as a versatile community college, to offer more career-oriented and technological training programs, to develop more continuing education courses.

The community college, with its accessible, commuting campus, its relatively low tuition and fees, and its "open door" admissions policy, has extended the opportunity for higher education to the many once denied this privilege. The "late bloomer" and the high school graduate, who once could not financially afford a college education, have found the community college a solution and a salvation.

Today, as never before, future career expectations depend upon educational attainment; future economic security and success are related to educational achievement. In our democracy every young person should have an equal opportunity to obtain a higher education, regardless of his station in life or financial means. Yet only about two-thirds of all students who could benefit from a college education are receiving one. We have learned that when we close the college door on our less affluent or less academically-oriented students, we are compounding their misfortunes, we are condemning them to a life of limited expectations, and we are denying society the benefit of their full potential. The community college has evolved to fulfill the promise of our democratic principle, to offer every individual every opportunity to pursue and continue his education.

And in this case where the individual is served, the total community benefits. Community colleges are providing continuing education for adults, re-education for occupational upgrading, noncredit enrichment courses and a wide variety of cultural and intellectual programs.