

NEWS RELEASE AND STATEMENT CORRECTING RUMOR
ABOUT CONVERTING BOWIE STATE COLLEGE
TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

April 1, 1968

Governor Agnew emphatically denied tonight rumors that State officials are planning to convert Bowie State College into a white community college.

"These reports apparently are being circulated by outside agitators in an attempt to inflame student opinion," the Governor said. "They are completely groundless. I have reaffirmed through the Board of Trustees of State Colleges that no such plans have even been considered by the Board.

"The vastly increased funds approved for the College in the past two budgets, and its rapid growth in enrollment, assure that it is being considered for an increasingly important role in the State's four-year college system.

"The responsible students of Bowie, who have genuine interest in the College's future, will do well to channel their grievances through the administration and the Trustees.

"We cannot and will not tolerate any repetition of last week's irresponsible actions."

SPECIAL NEWS CONFERENCE ON CLOSING
BOWIE STATE COLLEGE

April 4, 1968

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR

This afternoon I had to make a very hard decision. As hard as the decision was, the need to make it was crystal clear. Very simply, the issue was whether or not to excuse and thereby condone a deliberate flouting and defiance of law, and the decision was hard because it involved nearly 300 young people and their arrest. Young people who confused provocation with principle — who were deliberately inflamed by outside influences, influences which all too often thrive on chaos and disrespect of the law.