

Financial problems told

Community colleges face crisis

The nation's community colleges are facing serious financial crisis. Legislatures in 13 states have already put limitations on community college enrollments because already overburdened taxpayers are not willing to finance these institutions as they have in the past.

According to Dr. J. Gleazer Jr., president of the American Association of Junior and Community Colleges, the growth of the nations community colleges and their increasing costs to taxpayers are closing an open door policy that allows persons from low income and minority groups to attain a college education.

Nationally, enrollments in community colleges have exceeded most expectations, from 660,000 students in 678 community colleges in 1960 to over 4 million students enrolled in college transfer classes in more than 1,200 colleges. In most cases enrollment in technical and vocational programs exceeds this figure.

In a series of articles for "The Bridge", Portland Community College's newspaper,

Dr. Gleazer wrote, "The community college exists to fill an educational void." It exists to encourage students who, for any reason, financially or socially, have not finished their educations.

A recent study of California community colleges shows that "Community college enrollments continue to grow at a rate exceeding projections, in part as a result of the development of programs and services for new student clienteles."

"They include the educationally and economically disadvantaged, the physically handicapped, women reentering post secondary education, senior citizens, workers needing training for relicensing and high school students who can profit from college courses."

There has been no "steady state" in community college enrollments -- no shrinkage or plateaus. Although enrollment in many types of educational institutions will decline or stabilize by 1980 community college enrollment will continue to grow. But as demands for educational services

expands -- financial resources do not is causing state legislatures throughout the country to impose enrollment ceilings. Students are being turned away from full-time education.

According to Gleazer, the people most affected are those who need educational benefits the most. Those who are unsure of themselves and of their ways are seldom first in line when educational opportunities are given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Gleazer feels that before this crisis can be solved the community colleges must define their purposes and then find ways to best serve the needs of a majority of their students.

He fears that priority decisions will be made based on "out-of-date information." That people in decision-making capacity will formulate public policy on the basis of membered stereotypes of college as 25 years ago.

"The average age of the community college student is 29," he wrote. "Most students work part-time or full-time and pay for their education. The wide variety of services offered must respond to their needs. Educational programs have changed remarkably in recent years."

In a series of meetings held by a community college in a California city the citizens agreed in the event of a reduction in adult education programs at community colleges the following would be considered an adult education program and would not be subject to any reduction:

- Adult basic education
 - High school completion
 - English as a second language
 - Vocational education classes for employment
 - Classes for the handicapped
 - Parent participation classes
- "Institutional policies are being developed," wrote Gleazer. "Priorities are being determined and legislators informed. The process has just begun."

Alpha Awareness takes different health approach

For a health class that took a different approach toward health, Carol Petersen's class was of significant value. Petersen's class, for example, dealt with how to cope with everyday problems and showed students how to relax through relaxation exercises.

The class was based on the Alpha Awareness Program which is a method of training one's mental abilities in a positive manner to live life in a more advantageous way. Much of the program simply helps persons deal

with everyday problems.

Petersen will not teach her regular health class this winter as she will be on leave of absence to work with the Alpha Awareness Program. This opportunity will allow her to work in this general area and possibly travel throughout the U.S. Petersen will be back spring term unless the Alpha Awareness Program has more to offer.

"This opportunity gives me a chance to see how life is outside of an educational structure," said Petersen.

Evening college shows enrollment increase

Stan Plewe, supervisor of the evening college at Clackamas Community College, said that the number of people involved in CCC's community education program is phenomenal.

Plewe reported that the latest head count is 4,437 students compared with approximately 4,000 students at this time last year. More classes are being offered this year than ever before.

At a meeting on Nov. 2, Dr. Hakanson, CCC president, reported that enrollment was down in full time occupational, part-time occupational supplementary and non-credit classes by the end of the fourth week of the fall quarter -- creating an approximated \$340,000 loss in revenue.

"Enrollment has improved since that time," said Hakanson, explaining that subsequent figures show an increase in non-credit classes (also occupational supplementary).

Plewe said, "To speculate about enrollment in non-credit classes by the end of the fourth week would be like flying over the battlefield and estimating what the casualties are from the bomber." Plewe also

said that you just can't tell at that point because non-credit classes are staggered, and starting dates don't coincide with classes on the CCC campus.

Even though non-credit classes are flourishing, Bill Ryan, CCC dean of college services, reports that the total enrollment is still down about 6 percent.

As for the loss in revenue created by the decrease in enrollment, Ryan explained that the amount of students enrolled in non-credit classes has very little influence, because they are nonreimbursable.

"CCC receives \$825.00 state reimbursement for each FTE (full time student), and no reimbursement for students enrolled in non-credit classes," said Ryan.

EARN UP TO \$3000 PER SEMESTER OR MUCH MORE! Campus Reps wanted to post distribute for commission. Lines guaranteed to sell. Aggressive, motivated persons. Few hours weekly. Send resume, \$2, for job description, info sheets, application forms, post & handling. Upon acceptance receive coding number, memb. card, work manual free. With first weekly commission check receive your \$2 back. WRITE: Nationwide College Marketing Services (NCMS), Box 1384, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

I LOVE YOU



He can buy any gift you give him, except your portrait.

There is still time.

232-5104

Photography by Fudge
2607 SE Hawthorne Blvd.
Home - Outdoors - Studio

Clackamas Community College

