

OTI Established As Polytechnic

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DR. WINSTON D. PURVINE
Oregon Tech President

Purvine Guided School From The Beginning

Dr. Winston D. Purvine, president of Oregon Technical Institute, has guided the school of trade and industrial education since its humble beginnings in 1947.

Purvine has seen the institution grow from little more than a trade school with a handful of students housed in a former Marine Corps barracks to a polytechnic college boasting more than 1,000 students and an ultra-modern new campus.

Purvine's career began as an assistant superintendent and teacher at the Vocational Mining School in Grants Pass. He later became superintendent of the school.

In 1948, Purvine became administrative assistant to the director of vocational education in the State Department of Education and later that year became director of the Eugene Vocational School.

Before taking over what was called the Oregon Vocational School (Oregon Tech) in 1947, Purvine held posts of assistant state supervisor of trade and industrial education, state

Oregon Technical Institute has established itself during the past year as a major polytechnic college filling an increasingly important role in this technological age.

Oregon Tech, housed in a sparkling new campus and boasting a record enrollment, trains technicians for numerous vital industries and professions.

Oregon Tech can train a student to survey a road or split an atom—and everything in between.

The institute is unique in Oregon, and one of the few schools of its kind in the United States. It differs from the normal concept of a college in that its emphasis is not on academic subjects.

Students do study such subjects as English or mathematics, but they are taught to use them as primary technical courses.

For example, English at Oregon Tech is taught from a standpoint of technical report writing, rather than the standpoint of ancient literature.

Yet, Oregon Tech is more complex than a trade school. In essence, Oregon Tech trains personnel to assist professional persons.

Oregon Tech-trained technicians assist doctors, dentists, engineers and scientists, among others.

Its graduates are employed throughout the United States and in a number of other nations.

The technical field suffers from a lack of personnel and the monetary rewards are large.

Therefore, Oregon Tech has become increasingly popular in the state for high school graduates.

Enrollment during the fall term hit a new record of 1,040 students.

The students come not only from Oregon, but a number of states and nations as well.

At times, Oregon Tech resembles a miniature United Nations as foreign students gather. Oregon Tech is popular with foreign students because it teaches the skills and imparts the knowledge most urgently needed in emerging nations.

More than 300 of the students are housed in a dormitory on the new campus. An additional 100 are housed in an off-campus dormitory—the former Hillside Hospital.

Plans for greatly enlarging the campus dormitory have been approved by Gov. Mark O. Hatfield.

Physically, Oregon Tech took the greatest step of its 17-year history last summer when it moved from its old campus three miles east of Klamath Falls to new facility inside the city limits.

The old campus was originally a Marine Corps recuperative barracks. Oregon Vocational School moved into the barracks in 1947.

At first, the school was little

more than a trade school. But through the years it has evolved.

Responsibility for the school was switched from the State Department of Education to the State System of Higher Education.

With this switch came an upgrading of OTI's curriculum to a more collegiate standard.

Along the line, the name was changed from Oregon Vocational School to Oregon Technical Institute.

Many of the old "trade" courses were dropped and many of the teachers were replaced in this upgrading process.

Dr. Winston D. Purvine has headed Oregon Tech since its inception and heads it today.

The old Marine Corps barracks never was truly adequate for Oregon Tech's needs.

The decision was made several years ago to build a new campus, specifically tailored for the institute.

A hillside site overlooking Upper Klamath Lake and just north of Klamath Falls proper was donated for the new campus.

The site, while not occupied by any buildings, is located just minutes from downtown Klamath Falls.

Money was appropriated for the new campus and construction began.

Dominating the campus is the mushroom-shaped gymnasium, which can seat well over 2,000 persons.

Well over 2,000 crowded into that gymnasium Oct. 25 for dedication ceremonies. Governor Hatfield delivered the prime address, calling Oregon Tech "the institution that would not die" and citing the numerous battles within the state government for OTI's existence.

Although Oregon Tech has come a great distance from its humble beginnings as a trade school in 1947, it is merely beginning to realize its full potential.

The State Board of Higher Education last year approved a set of guidelines for Oregon Tech that were worked out by the institute administration.

The guidelines foresee Oregon Tech becoming a truly polytechnic college with an enrollment of 5,000.

Oregon Tech, it is foreseen, will offer numerous courses of six terms—and possibly some four-year courses as well.

The guidelines pledge Oregon Tech's continuing interest in research and development in technical fields, so as to keep pace with the rapidly progressing technologies of industry.

Physically, there is almost no limit to Oregon Tech's expansion.



MATH CLASS — Students are grouped on raised platform in the classrooms at Oregon Technical Institute. Here, mathematics instructor George Miller is shown lecturing a class.

When you see "Smilin' Jack" in this rig, you know it's



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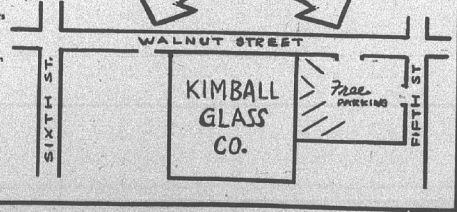


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