WESTERN NEVADA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1 JULY 1971 - 30 JUNE 1972
Community College Division

The advent of Western Nevada Community College was heralded by the Board of Regents, University of Nevada System, when Board action reorganized higher education in Nevada and, among many forward looking actions, created in 1969 the Community College Division.

The Board of Regents provided that the community college program in Nevada would be comprehensive. In undertaking this commitment, the Board sought, and found, outstanding leadership in community college programming. The Community College Division completed the State Plan For Community Colleges in the State of Nevada in the late autumn of 1970. This comprehensive plan detailed the role and function of the community college program for the State of Nevada.

Western Nevada Community College

Western Nevada Community College is committed to providing educational services and programs for the eight counties in Northwestern Nevada. These counties; Pershing, Churchill, Mineral, Storey, Douglas, Lyon, Washoe and Carson City had courses assisted the college with courses/programs that could best serve their educational goals, and could be offered within existing facilities, plus the utilization of qualified personnel within the communities served. The new college had to carefully evaluate each request to permit the proper evaluation of fiscal resources and professional personnel to provide the necessary services in establishing the comprehensive community college program in each area.
The Board of Regents designated Carson City as the administrative headquarters of the college. This decision, made in May 1971, was made after a strong appeal from a prominent group of Carson City leaders. This delegation, headed by Carson City State Senator Archie Pozzi, Jr., had presented to the Board of Regents a plan for the college development in Carson City by offering a campus site, plus a direct grant of financial support.

The plan included two crucial considerations for the Board to consider:

1) Senator Pozzi was preparing legislation that would transfer two hundred acres of state owned land on the northwest edge of Carson City to the Board of Regents for the purpose of developing a campus for Western Nevada Community College.

2) Carson City guaranteed a direct grant of money to Western Nevada Community College over a three-year period for the purpose of establishing a college in Carson City.
   a) The first year, 1 July 1971 - 30 June 1972: $50,000.00.
   b) 1 July 1972 - 30 June 1973 and 1 July 1973 - 30 June 1974, a guarantee of five cents per hundred dollars of assessed valuation in Carson City to be paid to Western Nevada Community College providing the college was established in Carson City.

The Board of Regents weighed the proposals until their meeting in May 1971. At that time, upon the recommendation of President Donnelly, the Board designated the administrative headquarters to be established in Carson City. In the intervening weeks the land transfer legislation had passed. Governor O'Callahan signed the bill that Senator Pozzi had developed providing for the transfer of two hundred acres of state property in northwest Carson City to the Board of
Regents for the development of the campus of Western Nevada Community College. Governor O'Callahan signed the bill on 25 April 1971. A provision within the bill stated that the Board of Regents would have one year from the date of signing to accept the property, and five years after acceptance to begin development of facilities on the property.

The funds provided by Carson City in the initial year of operation gave a much needed boost to establishing an operational center in Carson City. The Carson City Board of Supervisors provided a facility in the first floor of the former civic auditorium located at 813 North Carson Street. The Board of Supervisors permitted the College to remodel the old gymnasium area, plus office area in the foyer, into a business classroom and a general classroom. The foyer was provided with a counter for business/reception needs of a secretarial station. The interior office was subdivided into an administrative office and an instructor office. The east end of the gymnasium area was left open. An agreement between the College and the Carson City Proscenium Players was developed that permitted a cooperative use of this area by the Players for three productions per year. The College would provide the facility and utilities. The College would receive from the Players each year a $100.00 donation for student financial assistance programs.

The College opened, temporarily located in its new "campus setting", on 6 July 1971. The entire operation at that point in time provided for an executive Vice-President, one folding chair, one very weak card table, and several borrowed chairs from the Carson City Recreation Department. The first major amenity to grace the new office was a telephone. Almost immediately upon installation calls began to pour in from all corners of the college community.
The Board of Regents, in providing that Carson City would be the administrative headquarters of the college, did not overlook the potential educational needs of the Reno/Sparks area. Programs previously assigned to Nevada Technical Institute, or the School of Home Economics, or the Orvis School of Nursing, University of Nevada, Reno, were to be operated by Western Nevada Community College. These programs were Radiologic Technology, Registered Nursing, Business Technology and Food Services. Fire Science Technology had been started in the fall of 1970 using Elko Community College to facilitate the various requirements of a formal course/program offering. Fall semester 1971 brought the Fire Science program into the full provisions of an associate degree program with WNCC.

The occupational programs of the College operation in the Reno/Sparks area received first consideration in scheduling and facility needs. There was a concentrated effort to locate adequate facilities in Reno or Sparks. The search included the former Steen facilities on East Plumb Lane, the former mansion of Nevada Senator Nixon on California Avenue, the former Department of Motor Vehicles facility on Mill Street at Kietzke Lane, area in the Greenbrae Shopping Center in Sparks, plus numerous other facilities in Reno. The primary concern in by-passing these facilities was the problem of rental cost and facility adaptability costs. By late July 1971, it was determined that College operations in the Reno/Sparks area would open in the former facilities of Nevada Technical Institute at Stead. These facilities although 12 miles north of the primary population center of the communities to be served, would provide adequate space for the daytime classes. Washoe County School District was approached for a request for the use of classroom space in the evenings.
The formal request for use of classrooms was presented to the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees on 13 July 1971. The Board approved usage on a "to-be-arranged" basis with the approval of the school district administrative personnel. The procedures and details for the evening use of Wooster High School and Clayton Junior High School were developed with building principals and approved by the Adult Education personnel.

The rural areas of the college district were serviced on the basis of plans developed at each center of instruction.

Churchill County programs were developed through intensive planning with Mr. Elliott Lima. A schedule was drafted, registration details developed, instructors lined up, plus the other details of getting into operation. Registration was held on the evening of 28 August 1971 at Churchill County High School. An interesting facet of this registration was the sudden occurrence of a very intense thunder storm. The effect of this storm curtailed the numbers who came for registration, plus causing a power failure. Those who did come for registration were registered by candle light. The candles were provided by a student who wanted to assist the "lamp of learning" in Churchill County. A student would hold the candle while the college personnel would write, then they would trade duties so the student could complete registration forms, etc.

Details for Mineral County were finalized with assistance of Wallace Peterson; Lyon County was coordinated with the assistance of Ron Nagle and Don Dallas. Douglas County was planned through the Fire Science program established in January 1971 at the Round Hill Fire Station. Dan Moore, Captain and Training Officer, took over the coordination of scheduling, instructors,
and facilities. The enthusiasm by the men at Round Hill for the college program was reflected in their building of a sign which was placed in front of the fire department "Zephyr Cove Center -- Western Nevada Community College". In addition to this strong feeling of identity, the men expressed a desire to see a major branch campus developed at the south end of Lake Tahoe. To further this goal, they were prepared to take their request directly to the legislature through the Douglas County legislative representatives. Their request was predicated on the development for regular use of the 4-H camp site at South Shore. Regular courses scheduled at times convenient for their schedules muted these concerns during the 1971-72 school year.

The schedule of classes at Incline Village was also coordinated through the Fire Department, but at a much milder level of enthusiasm than at Round Hill. The Incline Village course offerings attracted several fire department personnel from the California side of north Lake Tahoe (Kings Beach, Carnelian Bay, Tahoe City, Meeks Bay, Squaw Valley and Truckee).

Evening classes in Carson City provided sufficient enrollment pressure that rooms were scheduled in the Carson City High School, plus the campus facility. Arrangements with the Carson City School Board had been concluded on the evening of 9 August 1971. Much like arrangements with the Washoe County School District, the procedures were "to-be-arranged" as needed. Harry Dickson was the coordinator for the school district. Harry arranged for school district facilities, plus the necessary instructors who were needed part-time by the College and were employed by the school district. The attitude of the Carson City School Board, like the attitude of the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, was one of enthusiastic support for the College. The Lyon County School Board and district administration had given full support for WNCC in Lyon County.
Each of the school districts in the counties where the College was operating classes had given complete support to the College either through their school board, or through their administrative procedures. The executive vice-president had gone to extensive details to establish meaningful and professional rapport with each school district. Channels of communications were opened per school district requirements and procedures.

**Financial Considerations**

Each instructional center, plus the two major campus centers, was established to serve the educational needs of students. Enrollment projections by the Division had indicated that Western Nevada Community College could expect 750 FTE students for the 1971-72 school year. These projections were based on criteria developed for the **Master Plan**. The budgetary requirements to support a program for 750 FTE students would have provided an operational budget of $975,000.00. The proposed budget would have provided for thirty seven instructors, two administrators, one librarian, one student services personnel, and eleven classified personnel.

The reality of legislative action left the College with a 1971-72 budget geared to 188 FTE students. This budget provided for one administrator, two student services personnel, six full-time instructors, two half-time instructors, plus two classified positions. The balance of the instructional program was serviced by part-time instructors. The operational budget was not realistic with a full analysis of the line items, which compounded by larger enrollments than budgeted.

There had been two line items in the budget that were computed to **UNS** formulas and assigned to **WNCC**. These two categories were out-of-state tuition and federal subvention (vocational reimbursement). These two categories
accounted for $39,000.00 in revenue that never materialized. Federal subvention realized $6,500.00 advanced as a "planning grant". The out-of-state tuition realized approximately $300.00.

The Carson City money, plus the registration revenue in excess of the projected F.T.E., provided a revenue base that allowed the College to avoid deficit status. The closeness of the fiscal program did permit the College to do an exceptional job in getting underway, but prevented the purchasing of any major pieces of equipment.

The money provided by Carson City paid the cost of remodeling in the old civic auditorium, approximately $20,000.00; the purchase of twenty (20) typing stations for the business program; office furniture for a secretarial station and the executive vice-president; the initial payment on programmed courses from Future Resources and Development. The balance of the money was used to pay the operational costs of the campus.

Campus Dedication

The agreement between the College and Carson City Board of Supervisors provided for the College to pay for the cost of the campus building operations. The city maintained the welfare program office and surplus commodities program, the city environmentalist, the city health nurse, city manager and purchasing department were also housed in the basement.

The Carson City campus building was provided with a sign, Western Nevada Community College, by the Carson City Rotary Club. The sign was installed the morning of the college dedication program. The first installation had the arrangement Community College Western Nevada. A quick shift of backings, plus quick drying glue, had the sign reading Western Nevada Community College, as originally planned.
The college dedication program was coordinated through A. G. (Jerry) Dondero. A program was planned around the schedule of Governor O'Callahan. A tentative program date of 2 September 1971 was rescheduled for Sunday, 19 September 1971. The schedule was set for 2:00 P.M. with James Lien, President of the Carson City Chamber of Commerce presiding. Governor Mike O'Callahan delivered the dedicatory address. Mrs. Carolyn O'Callahan cut the ribbon and officially opened the new college for the people of the State of Nevada.

The Carson City Chamber of Commerce provided refreshments for those who visited the newly remodeled facilities. The Cliff Jackson Trio played the background music. It was estimated that 200-250 people attended, with a good representation from most of the rural communities served by the College.

**Student Assistance**

A comprehensive community college program should provide a complete range of financial assistance opportunities for students.

When the budget for the college was approved by the legislature and the Board of Regents, an amount equal to five (5) grants-in-aid were made available to Nevada students. Ten (10) grants-in-aid were made available to native Nevada Indian students. The amount available for qualified students was the cost of the registration fee, or $8.00 per credit. This package of financial assistance was made available through the Board of Regents approval to transfer $3,840.00 from contingency reserve to the grant-in-aid category.

The fund category of Nevada students qualifying for grant-in-aid assistance was used in total during the course of the school year. This package of assistance was apportioned to students based upon need. The primary reference for establishing need was determined from the ACT program designed to measure
Financial need as established by information provided by the individual student. Each application was measured and the amount made available was in an amount that could best assist that particular student.

The amount of financial assistance for native Nevada Indians was never used in total. Non-use of funds provided an easing of budget problems for the college. Non-use of funds even with budget problems was unfortunate for the college as the college was working to serve the educational needs of students. An analysis of why the funds for native Nevada Indians were not used points to specific and general concerns in a new college operation.

1) The shortness of time from approval to open and the actual opening did not permit proper time to make sufficient information available to those students who could benefit from the educational programs.

2) A new college lacks identity. A completely new educational concept, established in an area previously identified by higher educational programming as provided by the University of Nevada, Reno, was a new challenge for the area citizens.

3) The college served the educational needs of many Nevada Indian students. The majority of these students came to the college through the Nevada Indian Agency, or the Bureau of Indian Affairs, or the Rehabilitation Department. The students had their educational costs paid by the various agencies described. As a result, college funds were not needed for these students.

A new college, with very limited budget provisions, and officially two
months mature when classes began, was not able to qualify for most of the federally funded financial aid programs for students. The one aid program that was provided, and used quite extensively by students, throughout the school year, was the guaranteed bank loan program (U.S.A.) through the First National Bank of Nevada. John Gamble, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, provided most of the leadership to bring this package of financial aids to WNCC students. The approval for qualification of participation was channeled through Superintendent Gamble's office. Mr. Gamble gave excellent follow through to accommodate the total approval process.

A major concern in receiving federal approval to participate in federally funded student financial aid programs is based on the status of college accreditation. The college applied for correspondence status within the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools. The application for accreditation as a correspondent was written and submitted to Dr. James F. Bemis, Executive Secretary of the Association, in August 1971. Dr. Bemis visited the college for a one day evaluation visit in mid-September. When the Northwest Association met in annual convention in Reno in early December 1971 the association approved Western Nevada Community College for correspondent status. This approval provided the required process to permit WNCC to participate in federal programs for student financial assistance, plus recognizing satisfactory progress toward full accreditation and program development. Applications for these federal financial aid programs had already been written and submitted with the qualification that the college had applied for correspondence status.

Other financial aid money came to the college during the course of the school year. The various amounts and funding groups were an interesting picture of support for the college, its students and the educational commitment the college had to the communities and the state.
A chance luncheon conversation between the executive vice-president and Charles Marriage, an Independent Insurance Agent in Carson City, revealed that the Nevada Independent Insurance Agents would be interested in assisting the community college division students with a student loan program. Mr. Marriage recommended that WNCC submit through him to the Independent Insurance Agents a draft proposal outlining the procedures for administering a loan program. A. G. Dondero assisted in the preparation and presentation of the formal request for $10,000.00 to provide a student loan program for community college division students. The Nevada Independent Insurance Agents approved the request and a check for $10,000.00 was sent to President Donnelly.

Western Nevada Community College made the loan funds available to WNCC students immediately. Within a short time the money was being used by students who had qualified. Loans were made to assist with college costs plus for personal needs. The repayment schedule permitted low interest. The money would be available on a continuing basis through the repayment schedules.

The college experienced only one default in the loan program during the 1971-1972 school year. This loan of $200.00 was turned over for collection by a collection agency after every possible effort was made to recover the money. The student who had defaulted also owed the college money for deferred registration. He had also gained advance VA benefits which were causing a concern to the Veteran's Administration.

Part of the arrangement made by the College and Carson City was the shared use of the Civic Auditorium with the Proscenium Players. The Players were to pay to the College $100.00 per year for use of the auditorium portion of the campus building. James Lien, President of the Proscenium Players, was
also active in the Carson City Kiwanis Club. The Kiwanis made approximately $300.00 available for student financial assistance for Carson City students. This money was combined with the money from the Proscenium Players funds and the College was able to extend financial assistance grants to four (4) additional students in Carson City.

The College applications for federal funding on student financial assistance programs came back from the San Francisco regional office with tentative approvals set at about 50% of the original application requests. Due to the lateness of Congressional action on the 1973 fiscal year appropriations, the College was unable to move effectively to establish a broader financial aid program for the 1972-73 school year before mid-July 1972.

**Campus Development**

President Donnelly, Community College Division, had stressed on a number of occasions the need for a campus site that would meet basic criterion for the comprehensive community college program development in Northwestern Nevada.

The basic components for an adequate campus site would reflect considerations of these areas:

a) Population distribution

b) Site accessibility

c) Land availability and cost

d) Ease of development

Additional areas of concern would also consider the size of the potential site; physical features; setting and environment, plus numerous other factors that must be weighed in considering a campus site development.

One of the sites evaluated by Tadlock and Associates in early 1971 was a
tract of property owned by the State of Nevada located on the northwest edge of Carson City. The site was jointly administered by the State and the Department of Buildings and Grounds for the State. The Tadlock report evaluated this site as desirable but with certain drawbacks, namely location, setting, physical and special concerns. These problems were later studied and found to be minor when the city indicated its willingness to provide the off-setting requirements.

Senator Archie Pozzi, Jr. of Carson City introduced S.B. 179 on February 10, 1971. The legislation provided for the conveyance of property, not to exceed 200 acres of stateowned real property in Carson City to the University of Nevada System for the purpose of developing a community college. The bill also included the provisions that the Board of Regents would need to accept the property within one year of the date that the governor signed the bill; that after acceptance of the property the Board of Regents would be permitted five (5) years to begin development of a campus. If these conditions were not met, then the title of the property would revert back to the State. The bill also provided that the Board of Regents could select the best suited 200 acre parcel from the available 520 acre site.

Action on Senate Bill 179 was rapidly culminated with Governor O'Callahan signing the Bill into law on 25 April 1971. A series of studies by the soil conservation district in the late fall 1971 and early spring 1972 assisted the College in providing longrange evaluations of soil conditions, drainage concerns, stream bed stabilization planning by the soil conservation district, and the general ecology of the site area. Prominent land features in the site area were two potentially dangerous drainage channels from the Sierras to the
west of the site. The site is also traversed in a northwest to southeast direction by the former V & T railroad right-a-way. This roadbed was used as a major road through the site area by school buses and residents in the northwest corner of the general site. Although the route was not dedicated for vehicle travel, snow was plowed and the route surface was kept in satisfactory condition.

During the course of the soil conservation studies, there was discussion on the problem of earth faults in the Eagle Valley and the proposed campus site area specifically. Geological maps supplied by the United States Geological Survey Office in Carson City clearly pinpointed fault lines with a potentially major fault zone traversing the site area in a southwest to northeast direction. Further discussion with the U.S.G.S. and soil district personnel indicated that there had been no measured slippage along the fault zone since 1870 and probably quite a period before that date.

Concerns over this possible problem were studied by Dr. Vernon Scheid, Dean, Mackay School of Mines and Director of Nevada Bureau of Mines, UNR. Dean Scheid's study clearly located the fault zone on the campus site, plus possible fracture lines that are prevalent throughout the Eagle Valley. The study indicated that appropriate structures could be built in the site area but the structures should not be built on the known fault zones.

This information permitted the Plant and Property Committee of the Board of Regents to meet with the campus planners, Pereira and Associates and Ralph Casazza, the Reno based architect, who was working with Pereira to plan and design the campus, plus President Donnelly and representatives of the State Planning Board to decide on the precise tract of land for a campus site. The
Plant and Property committee voted to accept the 200 acre tract located in
the southeast corner of the site area, a block of 160 acres, plus a block
of 40 acres stretching north along the east property line and bordering
contiguously on the adjacent 160 tract, for a total of 200 acres of campus
property. The legal description of the property, as recorded in Carson City:

That the University request conveyance by the State of 200
acres of real property located in Carson City and described
as the NE 1/4 of Section 12, Township 15 North Range, 19 east,
and SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 1, Township 15 North,
Range 19 east, to be used as the site of the Western Nevada
Community College.

A question relating to water for the campus development was satisfied
by the possible application of two or three alternatives: the use of water
from a city well located on the campus site; the extension of a line from the
State owned Marlette Lake water line; or extension of a line from a city owned
well and pumping station located approximately one half mile south of the
south property line on Winnie's Lane.

Problems of adequate sewage service are a major concern. No immediate
answer was forth coming. The planners were studying a septic system until the
city sewer lines could be brought into the area. The State Planning Board
indicated that a line large enough to handle campus development, plus surround-
ing urban development, would have to be brought in from the existing city line
located on the east side of US395, approximately one mile east of the east
property line of the campus site.

Concerns would need to be resolved over access roads to the campus site.
Recommendations were made by property owners along Winnie's Lane that the
college seal off access to the old railroad route at both ends, plus close road access that had developed over the years into the old gravel pit area of the southeast corner of the campus site. This pit area was used extensively by area residents with motorcycles, plus target shooters, to say nothing of the potential lover's lane attraction.

The concern of access to the campus is directly related to the eventual permanent location of Ormsby Boulevard, which is designated as the major north/south route by-passing downtown Carson City. Location of this arterial is important to the area residents as well as the campus development.

The evaluation of these and other concerns by the residents and the college was not based on a negative approach. As Mr. Pereira had pointed out at a March meeting, when campus development was considered, there was a need to uniformly plan the college development with the long range community development to permit a maximum benefit of value and aesthetics for the area and the community.

At a meeting of the advisory committee for WNCC in May 1972, Ralph Casazza presented a preliminary architect's proposal for the new campus. Plans underway with the State Planning Board tentatively scheduled construction to be underway in the spring of 1973. Occupancy for the new campus could occur in early 1974.

Reno/Sparks/Stead Facilities

Facilities in the Reno area were headquartered at the Stead facility of the University of Nevada, Reno for the 1971-72 school year. Classroom and office space was used in building 6502, the old base commander's administrative headquarters, plus classroom, lab and office space in building 7501,
the former base infirmary and building 3300, the base gymnasium. Although these facilities reflected their original design and purpose, a military base, the University of Nevada, Reno, department of buildings and grounds, had adapted the building areas to good classrooms and labs, plus adequate office areas. The facilities served the educational development of approximately 165 students each semester.

The facilities of Wooster High School, each semester, Clayton Junior High School, each semester, and Reno High School, fall semester, provided excellent classroom and lab facilities for classes beginning at approximately 5:00 P.M. four days a week. There had been developed a modus operandi with each host school district that WNCC would utilize school district facilities at the convenience of each school district; the community college program would in no way interfere with community or school district programs; the community college would not operate on Friday evenings. In Churchill County, following the recommendations of Elliott Lima, Churchill County High School, WNCC operated a Saturday morning horse husbandry course in the fall semester. Some of these classes met at the high school while others met at pre-scheduled locations where corrals would be utilized for the practical exercises in horse care and training.

The operational arrangements with each school district, while basically entered into on an informal basis between the college executive vice-president and school officials, were recognized as being complimentary to both educational operations. In addition, excellent working relationships were established for the college and the school districts, plus warm personal friendships were established between the school district personnel and the college executive vice-president.
Of primary concern to the college, as the executive vice-president discussed in detail programs and possible programs for all areas served by the college, was the ability of the college to provide the breadth of program and services identified by each community. Limited fiscal resources severely limited WNCC in 1971-72. Similar restrictions would have to be faced in 1972-73. Beyond the current biennium, time was needed to put into prospective a comprehensive plan of educational programming for the rural areas of the college district. Some services were by necessity not going to be available. Other opportunities could provide stronger offerings in the rural communities than on the main campus centers. The long range comprehensive plan will need time and qualified personnel to develop properly.

**Staffing and Programs**

Every new development must take time and resources to develop a program commitment that will most realistically reflect the goals and objectives of that program. Western Nevada Community College approached the opening of the new college with a commitment to the goals and objectives of a total comprehensive community college program.

A number of concerns were realized by the Division's two member professional staff and one secretarial person. Chief among these concerns was funding approval by the 1971 legislature in time to provide contractual arrangements with the faculty of the new college. As the legislature moved into early May 1971 this concern, compounded with the limited budget status, created deep concern with the transfer of University of Nevada, Reno associate degree programs to Western Nevada Community College.
The Board of Regents in January 1971 had approved the transfer of the Nevada Technical Institute programs to the new WNCC operations effective 1 July 1971. These programs would have provided the nucleus of the new college operations. The decision of the Board of Regents caused intense feelings to be brought out by some NTI professional faculty and a number of NTI students. The feelings expressed by these people stemmed from two levels of misunderstanding.

The NTI students and faculty felt that the move of these programs would cause a loss of status for them personally and professionally. This confusion was engendered by their lack of understanding of the role and function of comprehensive community college and its programs.

The other area of misunderstanding arose over the status of accreditation. The NTI programs in the engineering and design technologies, plus electronics had been granted accreditation by the professional accrediting organization for these areas of instruction. Several times the administration of NTI and the instructors in the programs had stated that they would lose accreditation at transfer of the programs; that students graduating from non-accredited programs could not expect to receive favorable employment consideration from prospective employers.

At no time during these expressions of concern was there confirmation that accreditation would not be continued. President Donnelly had repeated on many occasions that WNCC would cooperate fully with the professional accrediting group. But, accreditation was a function for the quality of the college program, not single courses or programs. Regional accreditation by the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools would provide
evaluation of quality education for the College.

A program that stressed single program accreditation can disportionately increase the cost of the instructional program, plus lay the basis for professional misunderstanding over the educational objectives of the College. Still, through all the controversy, President Donnelly assured all who took time to inquire, that WNCC would cooperate fully with the professional accreditation procedures.

By late spring 1971, the concern of the NTI faculty and students won another audience before the Board of Regents. Following that discussion, the Board of Regents reassigned the engineering and design programs plus electronics back to UNR, but established their line of administrative control to the UNR through the College of Engineering.

This decision by the Board of Regents left the occupational program status of Western Nevada Community College with Food Service Management (transferred from the School of Home Economics); Registered Nursing (transferred from the Orvis School of Nursing); Radiologic Technology, Business Technology (transferred from UNR, NTI). In addition to these programs, WNCC had previously operated Fire Science Technology through Elko Community College. Now Fire Science was operated by WNCC with cooperation and participation from the Fire Departments in Reno, Sparks, Carson City, Hawthorne, Zephyr Cove and Incline Village. The Educational Assistant program was offered fall semester 1971 through a contract for courses with the Headstart program at UNR. Law Enforcement had been offered in Fallon regularly since spring semester 1971 with Elko Community College providing the avenue for course offerings, registration, student records until WNCC was authorized to open.
1970-1971 Course Development

The process of using Elko Community College had been utilized beginning with fall semester 1970. By utilizing the procedures of Elko, the new WNCC program/course development had been able to get underway in Fallon, Hawthorne, Carson City and the Reno/Sparks Fire Departments plus Zephyr Cove and Incline Village Fire Departments. Fall semester 1970 had seen fire science taught for about fifty men. The expansion of offerings in fire science, plus law enforcement, and liberal arts courses, brought approximately 225 students into spring semester classes. It is interesting to note for a moment how the operation of some of these classes bring into focus the adaptability of community college courses in meeting the needs of students.

Mrs. Susan Harkenrider of Carson City taught English 139 - technical report writing for three credits. Swan, as she was called by the men taking the class, spent many hours studying the report forms and previous writing quality of the men at the Carson City Fire Department. She also discovered that even though the department required a written report for almost every activity and service of the department, the men were frequently required to provide verbal discourse on various problems at court proceedings or at various public hearings. As a result of these kinds of demands, Mrs. Harkenrider borrowed the school district closed circuit TV system and had the class members not only write out class requirements, but also read orally their reports before the TV camera and then everyone evaluated the presentation on playback. Everyone in class commented on the value of these kinds of experience.

The Carson City fire chief permitted the men on duty to take the class,
which was taught in the fire department classroom. The only problem would arise when an alarm would cause immediate class dismissal. The evacuation procedure was to slide down the brass pole in the classroom to the equipment floor, then a rapid departure. Mrs. Harkenrider requested permission to go along on an alarm. The occasion came, and Mrs. Harkenrider slid down the brass pole, was given a coat, helmet and boots, then placed in the middle seat of a large pumper and was whisked away to what turned out to be a false alarm.

Her experiences not only permitted her to better understand the job requirements of the men, it permitted the men the opportunity to better understand the goals and objectives of writing and speaking in a manner that permitted more precise usage of form and style.

Mrs. Maryjean Riel taught Applied Mathematics for the firemen in the Reno/Sparks departments. The course was specifically designed to prepare the men for a course in fire hydraulics. Mrs. Riel suggested that it would be to her advantage if she could study the department manuals on pumps and pumper specifications, plus actually observe various hose and pumping layouts. Both Reno and Sparks Fire Departments complied with her request. Several Saturday mornings were spent by Mrs. Riel as she observed and participated in pumper and hose practices. The men all agreed the class had a much more interesting dimension due to Mrs. Riel's comprehension of hydraulics.

Fundamentals of Fire Prevention, F.S. 113, was taught in the Reno Fire Department classroom at Engine 2. Bill Boeman of the Reno Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau, was the instructor. Bill's thrust was to provide a series of case studies in fire prevention and investigation. Bill provided
extensive depth in assisting the men in understanding how fire investigation must be conducted, how to analyze the evidence gathered; how to prepare proper reports and particularly, how to prepare a case for court presentation.

The final class preparation was a class presentation for a mock court trial held in Reno Municipal Court. Judge John Barrett presided at the trial; a member of the public defenders staff represented the accused at the trial, and a member of the Washoe County DA staff presented the prosecution's case. The trial began at 7:30 P.M. and was terminated at midnight by mutual agreement, not due to having completed all objectives, but each person was feeling the press of time. Everyone came away expressing satisfaction that the total course had provided an exceptional learning environment.

The law enforcement course at Fallon provided the same kind of educational opportunity. The particular course developed for Fallon was the Elko Community College course: Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement. The Churchill County District Attorney's staff provided the nucleus of the instructional program. There was a regular utilization of the state supreme court justices, district court judges, federal judges, the attorney general's staff, representatives of the F.B.I. and the Reno Police Department. The course was designed for law enforcement officers and there were approximately twenty-two of them in the class. But, there were about fifty other people in the class, some seeking to broaden their understanding of law enforcement; in addition to county school teachers seeking credit for re-certification and salary advancement.

Informal discussions with many of these people clearly established the value of this class to them in terms of exposure directly to the people who worked daily with the Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement.
From exceptional courses as these described, Western Nevada Community College began its formal and official operations with the former UNR programs, programs established through Elko Community College, plus special program contracts, plus the addition of regular liberal arts and science courses.

**Professional Staffing**

The instructors were recruited, for the most part, from the existing programs transferred from UNR. To provide a modicum of breadth beyond the basic program instructors, a full-time instructor in business was hired; a full-time instructor for the nursing program was hired; a half-time instructor in English and a half-time instructor in mathematics were hired. The counseling staff was composed of a former N.T.I. counselor and former UNR special services counselor. These people provided the professional thrust of the college. The instructional program provided six full-time occupational instructors, two half-time liberal arts instructors, thus establishing the commitment to occupational education. Several part-time occupational instructors were hired and quite a number of part-time instructors for liberal arts courses were hired (on the basis of a course being offered) providing sufficient enrollment to generate the cost of instruction.

**Graduations**

The first year of operation had been very successful. There were several students who had transferred to WNCC. Evaluation of their records and progress indicated a need to plan for a spring graduation program for these students.

The student personnel operations were directed by the executive vice-president to ask all students anticipating graduation in the spring of 1973 to file applications for graduation. Twenty-nine students were certified as
having successfully completed the requirements for graduation.

A graduation program for the first year of operation is quite significant. A major consideration for this first graduating class was the fact that all twenty-nine graduates were receiving their associate of applied science degrees in occupational areas. The largest group was sixteen nurses, with the balance in business technology and radiologic technology.

As planning for the graduation was developed, the executive vice-president encouraged the graduation committee to attempt to schedule the program at the Pioneer Theater Auditorium in Reno. The July and August (1970) operations in the Pioneer Theater had been successful. The excellent assistance provided to the College by Pioneer Theater staff, and the Washoe County Fair and Recreation Board had encouraged the College to plan for a graduation program at the Pioneer Theater Auditorium.

By early March 1972, a confirmation from the Pioneer Theater Auditorium had been received. Graduation was scheduled for Saturday, 27 May 1972. The Honorable Alan Bible, senior United States Senator from Nevada was scheduled as commencement speaker. Vocal selections by Miss Diane Thomas, a student from Carson City, plus instrumental selections by the Cliff Jackson Trio of Carson City provided the background accompaniment for the first annual graduation program.

The Pioneer Theater Auditorium staff provided, again, excellent assistance in making the first graduation a successful program. A reception was held in the main convention display area of the auditorium which had been attractively divided to comfortably accommodate the graduation group.
Student Government

The Stead Campus of the College, with approximately 165 daytime students, began early in the fall semester 1971 to request approval for a college student body organization. The executive vice-president met on several occasions with the students and Stead campus counselors to discuss the process of student government organization.

Several ideas were discussed and an interim leadership elected by the students. Further meetings and discussions produced the first draft of a student body constitution. Consultation had clearly directed that the student government organization that governing procedures must consider a total college environment. Representation and student input from each campus center and instructional center was needed. The draft on the constitution evolved into a working concept that provided for each center of the college with an equal voice in the student government.

A final draft of the student government constitution was developed in November 1971. The student leadership was to serve on a calendar year basis. This administrative arrangement provided for a continuation of leadership direction during the start of each school year. The representation to the student council was based on a guaranteed representative to each area of instruction, plus additional representation based on the total generation of student credit hours.

The first student body leaders, elected in December 1971, were Stanley B. Smith, President, David Rodine, Vice-President, Janet Goode, Secretary. The United Students of Western Nevada Community College were presented to the Board of Regents at the February 1972 meeting by President Donnelly. The
Board of Regents acceptance of the student constitution provided that during the Reno meetings of the Board of Regents, the Community College Division student body concerns would be represented by the student leaders from WNCC.