A HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MOVEMENT IN NEVADA
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NEVADA COMMUNITY COLLEGES BECOME A REALITY--1966-1980

From 1864 until 1967, the lagging population growth and slow industrial progress in Nevada did not trigger any great demand for special education or vocational training needs which could not be met by the local school systems or the University of Nevada System. A need for comprehensive community colleges was not felt until the late sixties.

Paul Laxalt, in his 1966 campaign for governor, was the first major political figure to broach the concept of a state system of community colleges. Influenced by the literature he had read and his association with Dr. Thomas Tucker of the University of Nevada and A.G. "Jerry" Doerner, his administrative assistant, Laxalt included the establishment of community colleges as part of his campaign platform.

This plank of Laxalt's platform was no idle promise; when he became governor in 1967, he appointed a Governor's Council to determine the feasibility of community colleges in the State. State Superintendent of Schools Burnell Larson chaired the Council and Dr. Tucker was appointed as study director.

In 1967, also, the citizens of Elko banded together and raised funds totaling $44,356 to launch Nevada Community College. Tribute must be paid to the citizens of Elko for having been the first to establish all branches of higher education in Nevada. Not only was the University of Nevada first established in Elko in 1874, but in 1962 Elko business and community leaders attempted to establish a junior college by offering land to the Board of Regents if the Board would establish such a college in Elko. Even though this effort went down to defeat, those indomitable Elko citizens latched on to the concept of a community college.
in 1967 and established Nevada's first public community college on their own.

Elko leaders recognized that they could not support a community college from private funds; it would be essential to have state support. Assemblyman Norman Glazer and Roy Young of Elko joined Governor Laxalt in the 1968 special legislative session in attempts to get community college legislation passed. This hard-fought effort came to no avail as the 1968 legislature voted down the establishment of community colleges primarily on the grounds that a community college system would represent a third force in education and would further dilute the funds so badly needed by the public schools and the two universities.

Governor Laxalt immediately began working with Assemblyman Glazer to present Assembly Bill No. 22 that would require no funding but allow the Elko Community College to become a function of the Elko School District and permit the Elko trustees to accept gifts or grants from any source. The Bill also called for the State Department of Education to launch a feasibility study for community colleges. The Bill passed both houses without dissent on February 26, 1968—the community college concept had been salvaged and the groundwork laid for dramatic future development.

The first dramatic development was a donation of $250,000 contributed by Howard Hughes in May, 1968. Without solicitation by Governor Laxalt, Hughes volunteered the gift with the specification that half of the amount be used for the continuation of Elko Community College and the other half to fund a legislative study on the feasibility of community colleges for Nevada. It was the Hughes money, coupled with the leadership of Governor Laxalt, that resulted in the establishment of a community college system for Nevada.

The Board of Regents, at its February, 1969 meeting, accepted the request made by Governor Laxalt that the community colleges become a division of the University of Nevada System. Chancellor Neil Humphrey was authorized to develop organizational and basic program plans in conjunction with Governor Laxalt, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Eurnell Larson, and officials of Elko Community College (re-named at the
suggestion of Governor Laxalt’s survey committee).

Nationwide search began for the president of the new division and, in 1970, Dr. Charles R. Donnelly arrived from Flint, Michigan, to become the first and only president of the new Community College Division for the University of Nevada System. Dr. Donnelly was made responsible for the development of a state plan for community colleges and for the activation of new colleges in Reno, Carson City and Las Vegas.

Senator Archi Pozzi, Jr., with the support of Carson City citizens and the Carson City Board of Supervisors, was instrumental in getting the first community college building for western Nevada located in Carson City rather than south Reno. By February, 1971, Bill No. 179 had been passed which directed the conveyance of 200 acres of State owned property of financial support from the Carson City Board of Supervisors, led to Western Nevada Community College’s first building being located in Carson City rather than at Reno.

It was also in 1971 that Assemblyman William Swackhammer introduced Assembly Bill 459 which President Donnelly was later to term the most important piece of legislation for community colleges passed by the 1971 legislature. This bill created a higher education construction fund with receipts from the slot machines tax and expenditures from this fund were authorized only for construction projects for the University of Nevada System. AB 459 gave priority to construction of Clark County Community College for the 1971-73 biennium if the two colleges should come to be established by the legislature.

Coupled with a Congressional amendment to the Tax Reform Bill which stipulated that 80% of the revenue obtained from the slot machine tax would be returned to Nevada, this bill was a boon for the community college movement. The stage was set for the beginning of the community college system in Nevada.

FIRST YEAR OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, 1971-72

In 1971, Elko Community College was the oldest of the three community colleges comprising the new Community College Division. It was the first of the colleges to have all five occupational areas in operation: agriculture, business, health, industrial,
and public service. Elko also had another unique "first"—it was the first institution of higher education in the State to have a senior citizen center established on campus. The college also established outreach centers in Winnemucca, Wells and Ely.

Western Nevada Community College began its operations in the Civic Center building in Carson City; its outreach centers serviced Reno, Stead, Fallon, Yerington, Hawthorne, Incline Village and Zephyr Cove.

Clark County Community College, whose initial operation would occupy the old Las Vegas Review Journal building and Skill Center in Las Vegas, had outreach classes extending to Boulder City.

The Board of Regents chose the location at the corner of Cheyenne and Pecos as the first community college campus site in Clark County. This site offered excellent access to the lower economic groups of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas. The black community had been concerned that the college be located near their own center of population on the premise that occupational training offered by the college was most needed by black youth. This contention was borne out by enrollment figures which indicated that 23 percent of the enrollment on the downtown campus came from minority groups and that 83 percent of the students enrolled at the Skill Center were from the black community.

Enrollment for all three colleges amounted to 589 FTE (using the base that 16 credit hours equals one full-time student equivalent).

SECOND YEAR OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, 1972-73

In April, 1973, the college at Elko moved into the State's first new community college building—another Elko "first." At the same time, the college received a new name, Northern Nevada Community College.

Probably the most significant event of the 1972-73 year was the transfer of the Washoe County School District's adult education program to Western Nevada Community College. This supportive action on the part of Superintendent Marvin Picollo and the Washoe County Board of Trustees accounted for a 716% increase in headcount and a 355% increase in FTE thus providing a much-needed base for funding.

The search for a location for the new Reno campus resulted in selecting property
adjoining the Desert Research Institute site north of Reno. The Regents were influenced by the fact that costs would be restricted to site development expenses as opposed to the high cost of real estate in the southwest location recommended by the Arthur D. Little, Inc. report of December, 1968; and, also, by the fact that in view of Carson City having its own campus, there was not a need to have the community college located where it could serve both Reno and Carson City.

Clark County Community College did not receive the initial support from the school district which western Nevada had enjoyed. Despite the support of Dr. Kenny Guinn, Clark County School District Superintendent, the Board of Trustees were concerned about possible dilution of school funds and the college's possible threat to the success of the recently completed Southern Nevada Vocational Technical Center and they would not transfer their adult education program to the community college.

In December, 1972, President Donnelly had made public commitment to keeping each community college in the system under 5,000 full-time equivalent enrollment and maintaining the two-year identity of each college. Both Donnelly and Jack Davis, Executive Vice-President of Western Nevada Community College, reiterated these commitments at an administrators conference in June, 1973 to allay fears that the community colleges wanted to become four-year institutions.

The community colleges had opened the 1972-73 school year with attendance nearly tripled that of the first year. Statewide FTE reached 1,413 and the rapidly-expanding enrollments were a cause of concern to university staff people and legislators who expressed fears of competition and increased financial burdens.

THIRD YEAR OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, 1973-74

President Donnelly had been associated with the Mott Foundation's community education program in Flint, Michigan. Donnelly was a strong supporter of community education and mandated that college credit be given for the college's community service courses and that these credits be made applicable toward the Associate of General Studies degree as general electives.

Donnelly initiated meetings among educators and lay people to explain the community
education philosophy and the community school structure; he also hired Ben Martin as a community school coordinator.

The groundbreaking ceremony held in fall, 1973, for the Carson campus of Western Nevada Community College was the most attended ceremony in the history of the University of Nevada System up to that time and gave evidence of the strong community support for the community college movement.

Another notable event was the bringing into use of the second new building on the Elko campus and dedication for both of the new buildings took place on Saturday, September 8, 1973.

Conflict between the universities and the community college regarding university parallel courses erupted in February, 1974 when the University of Nevada Arts and Science Ad Hoc Committee on Articulation Problems recommended to Acting President Dr. James T. Anderson that no university parallel courses be taught in the community colleges in the Reno-Sparks area, including Stead, and in the Las Vegas area.

Strong sentiment against the proposal was voiced not only by Community College Division President Charles Donnelly, but also by University of Nevada Chancellor Neil Humphrey and Dr. Donald Baepler, Acting President of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

The Board of Regents rejected the recommendation and the right of the community colleges to offer university parallel courses was not questioned publicly again.

In March, 1974, Senator Clifton Young raised the question of the intent of community colleges in regard to building athletic facilities for football and other sports. Resident Donnelly responded that there was no intent to build stadiums and engage in intercollegiate sports; he emphasized the community college's main emphasis in athletics should be toward intramural programs and physical activities which students could pursue on a lifelong basis. Donnelly did point out, though, that community college students should not be denied access to physical education activities and that requesting a physical education and recreation complex for lifetime sports should not be viewed by legislators as the college's pursuing entry into the field of intercollegiate competition.

In May, 1974, Northern Nevada Community College received full accreditation from
the Northwestern Association of Secondary and Higher Schools.

Clark County Community College occupied its first new building in North Las Vegas on the Cheyenne campus, but the more significant event of the 1973-74 school year was probably the transfer of the adult education program of Clark County School District to the college. The efforts of Dr. R. Stephen Nicholson, the college's Vice-President, and Kenny Quinn, School District Superintendent, now augmented by the very able efforts of Raymond Sturm, School District Administrator, brought about this turn of events.

The result of the program transfer was a doubling of enrollment with an increase from 1,530 headcount to 3,249 headcount for the 1973-74 school year.

Clark County Community College also began to actively promote the concept that Nevada's community colleges should be concerned with persons having handicaps and also led the way in the development of flexible scheduling. Statewide interaction spurred by President Donnelly's leadership, resulted in flexible scheduling becoming a characteristic of community colleges—a characteristic deemed by many to be one of their major reasons for success.

FOURTH YEAR OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, 1974-75

Despite the fact that the State Plan for Community Colleges called for the establishment of community service courses to meet the social, cultural, and recreational needs of the community, a number of legislators challenged the financing of special interest courses desired by adults in the community. In compliance with the mandate from the legislature, President Donnelly issued a policy memorandum making community service courses supported from registration fees and not from State appropriated funds. Credit for community service courses would be applicable only to the Associate in General Studies degree.

Also in response to the 1975 legislature, the Community Education Center, which had been housed in the Community College Division office in Reno, was transferred to the State Department of Education in Carson City on July 1, 1975. The leadership role for community education passed to the public school system and the State Department of Education.

The question of a separate state board for community colleges was raised again in
September, 1974. Norman Glazer and the Elko Community College supporters had never abandoned their desire for a separate state board; they had only agreed to being placed under the umbrella of the Board of Regents as a matter of expediency in order to get their community college started. Governor Laxalt, from the outset, saw eventual evolution into a separate governing body for community colleges. Consequently, the issue kept being raised; but when question was brought up at a Board of Regent's meeting, President Donnelly reported to the NNCC Advisory Board in September, 1974 that majority opinion appeared to favor the Board of Regents and there was general consensus that the community colleges had fared well under their direction.

The last major controversy between university and community college personnel occurred when the University of Nevada at Reno attempted to secure a raise in registration fees for community college students. In 1974, the Community College Division began to serve more students than either one of Nevada's universities and became the largest division in the University of Nevada System in terms of numbers of citizens served. This development was perceived as a threat by a number of legislators and university personnel; and the proposed recommendation to raise community college fees was, in large part, a reaction to that threat. The Community College Division and Western Nevada Community College administrators vigorously opposed this recommendation, placing emphasis on the fact that raising the fees would deny access to higher education to many students who tended to be older individuals with families to support. The Regents rejected the concept of raising community college fees and this issue did not surface again.

Western Nevada Community College occupied its first new building on the Carson campus in December, 1974. The dream of Senator Paul Laxalt had become a reality eight years after he had proposed the community college concept.

On the financial scene all was not well. Although the budget recommended by Governor O'Callaghan provided a 20 percent increase, it actually represented a 34 percent decrease from Western Nevada's request. The decrease was caused by the fact that the student-faculty ratio was increased from 20-1 to 24-1. This ratio posed a hardship for the college because occupational courses requiring specialized equipment could only accept
limited numbers of students; the State Board of Nursing specified a ratio of 15-1 for nursing programs, and the smaller county centers could not possibly support classes on a 24-1 student-faculty ratio.

The problem was further compounded by the fact that federal vocational education monies were included in the regular biennium budget rather than being placed in a category separate from the State appropriation. The net result was that the college would be receiving approximately $200 less support per student FTE than it had been receiving in the 1974-75 budget.

Western Nevada Community College was also facing the 1975-76 school year with financial misgivings. Although the 1975-77 budget provided for a 47 percent increase, the actual increase in enrollment over the preceding biennium was 162 percent. A repetition of that growth rate would trigger critical financial problems.

The enrollment of Clark County Community College was also burgeoning. The faculty and students had not even settled in their new quarters when it became evident that a second college campus would soon be needed.

Regent Bill Norris, before a special meeting of the Board of Regents and the Nevada Public Works Board in September, 1974, proposed a second campus on government property located at West Charleston Boulevard and Torrey Pines.

In the spring of 1975, Clark County Community College made a push in another new direction—a step which would lead to the second community college for Clark County being established at Henderson rather than the Torrey Pines campus. Under the direction of Betty Scott, Henderson coordinator, a pilot program was started which would offer three liberal arts courses and one community service course in addition to the ongoing Spanish culture program which the college had been sponsoring. The success of this venture, plus the leadership of the Reverend Caesar Cavilglia and Regent James ("Bucky") Buchanan, would prove to be the catalyst which would bring about the Henderson campus.

Even though Western Nevada Community College was in the throes of a burgeoning enrollment, Clark County now surged ahead in headcount as well as FTE, topping Western by 1,251. FTE for Clark County Community College was now 2,768.4.
FIFTH YEAR OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, 1975-76

Problems of articulation between the community college and the universities continuously arose. There now emerged strong resistance by President Donnelly and the community colleges to a new course numbering system proposed by the articulation board to aid in the transfer process between the community colleges and the State's two universities. In a nine-page document, Donnelly argued that (1) the proposed numbering systems would separate and divide faculty and programs—it would place community service and developmental programs in a "sub-standard" group, the university parallel in an elite academic group, and the occupational programs and faculty in a group that was not considered to be baccalaureate level; (2) the numbering system proposed would demean the community service and developmental courses besides the fact that insufficient numbers had been allotted to contain all the community services offered; and (3) that all occupational courses offered by the community colleges could be accepted at some four-year college or university somewhere and that all general education courses taught at the community college were of baccalaureate level.

Donnelly also challenged the uneven representation on the articulation board which gave the universities four representatives but the community colleges only two and pointed out that, in the instance of the proposed numbering system, the vote was exactly that—four university members voting for the system and two community college representatives voting against the system.

The Board of Regents supported Donnelly's arguments and the net result was that a new numbering system was adopted rather than the one proposed by the articulation board and one more community college member was added to the articulation board.

Two additional issues presented themselves at the first statewide meeting of all citizen advisory boards called by President Donnelly in May, 1976.

Dr. Marvin Sedway from Las Vegas requested (1) that the group issue a statement endorsing interscholastic athletics in community colleges, and (2) that consideration be given to having a separate statewide board for the governance of community colleges. It was resolved that Sedway's first issue would be submitted to the individual advisory
boards and, in regard to the second issue, there was general consensus that there should not be a separate board at this time although such action might be desirable at a later date.

In May, 1976, the one-year trial program allowing White Pine and Elko county high school seniors to enroll in the community college was adopted permanently by the Board of Regents. This program, first authorized in April, 1975, offered senior students an alternative to traditional honors classes at the high school level. Nearly 100 White Pine students and approximately 70 Elko students enrolled in the program during the 1975-76 school year.

For Western Nevada Community College, the most important event of the 1975-76 year was action taken by President Donnelly to separate Western Nevada Community College into two colleges. The college would still have one identity, but it would consist of two separate campuses, each having its own administrative staff, budget and responsibility for its actions. Support for Donnelly's action came from the final accreditation report of the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools received in December, 1975. One of the significant advantages of such a separation would be that the Reno-Sparks campus could concentrate on becoming an occupational education center while the Carson campus could concentrate on providing better service to the rural centers.

The Board of Regents approved the reorganization on April 2, 1976 and steps were taken to create two separate administrative structures so that each campus would be independent. This would become a problem with legislators in the future because they had not been adequately informed as to why one college had so many administrators.

Western Nevada and Clark County Community Colleges received accreditation in December, 1975. In the short period of four years, all of Nevada's community colleges had received full accreditation.

It was on October 1, 1975, that Aids West, Inc. of Palo Alto, California, submitted a site feasibility report recommending the establishment of the Torrey Pine Campus in West Las Vegas. Notwithstanding the great odds against them (this site was the Regents' first choice), the Reverend Caesar Caviglia, pastor of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in Henderson, and Regent James Buchanan (elected from that area) launched a vital thrust
to establish the second community college campus in the vicinity of Henderson and Boulder City.

From the initial enrollment of 98 persons in the spring of 1975, there were now between 277-300 students attending 14 courses taught in Henderson's Roman Catholic church, the Civic Center and Basic High School. This increase, approximating 200 percent, expressed the desire of Henderson and Boulder City residents for college classes in their own area. The City of Henderson also responded to this public expression of interest and set aside 80 acres of city-owned public land at the lowest possible price permitted if the second campus would be built in Henderson.

Clark County Community College's total enrollment of 7,040 students was almost on a par with the University of Nevada at Las Vegas which had enrolled 7,621 students. Clark also continued to outdistance Western Nevada which had a headcount of 6,246.

**SIXTH YEAR OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM; 1976-77**

As President Donnelly entered the 1976-66 college term, the success of the community college system was a matter of pride to him—he had taken a previously non-existent system and developed it into a structure which might soon rival the University of Nevada in numbers of students served. Donnelly liked to point out that the community colleges were probably reaching more of Nevada's voting citizens than the two universities because the colleges had very little out-of-state enrollment. This accomplishment gave Donnelly a sense of security and strength and would lead to overconfidence on his part.

Governor Mike O'Callaghan, serving his last year as Nevada's governor, had been the recipient of good public press; and, because the State found itself with a strong, expanding economy, he was in a position to feel an equally strong sense of confidence and pride in his administration.

The State legislators and the Board of Regents also shared positive feelings about themselves and their past accomplishments—the growth of the State and its educational and business growth were justifiable matters of pride for them.

Thus it was, that when the State Legislature convened in January, 1977, there ex-
isted these major factions and individuals, each functioning under feelings of strength, security and independence. The resulting upheaval in the community college movement and structure would be due to its becoming the political football caught between these opposing forces.

The "kick-off" for the ensuing controversy occurred when the Governor sent his proposed budget to the Legislature. This budget, which contained major cuts, quickly elicited outspoken criticism from Donnelly and other community college supporters.

Governor O'Callaghan countered these attacks with the recommendation that eight positions be abolished in President Donnelly's office and that Donnelly and a small staff be transferred to the Chancellor's office.

This recommendation sparked major debate between community college supporters and the O'Callaghan administration. A temporary victory for Donnelly ensued when the Senate Finance Committee voted to keep the community college administration intact rather than merge it with the Chancellor's office.

Ripples from the budget rift spilled over into the controversy as to whether or not there should be established a separate state governing board for community colleges.

Because of university system budget-cutting procedures, instituted because O'Callaghan recommended a $120 million budget as compared to the $138 million budget requested, there emerged a feeling among community college staff and supporters that the University System had not dealt fairly with them. Resentment was engendered because the community colleges believed that their budgets had been cut twice while the budgets of the universities had been cut only once. There was also the feeling prevalent that the University System had not presented adequately the financial plight of the community colleges.

Another event giving momentum to the regenerated thrust for a separate governing board for community colleges occurred on January 11, 1977, when a contingent of community college supporters, some of whom had traveled from Reno and Elko to Las Vegas, were denied access to speak before the Board of Regents by Chairman Buchanan.

The community college supporters were infuriated and from this group Dr. Marvin
Sedway of Las Vegas emerged as prime spokesman for support of Senate Bill 389 which would have created an autonomous governing board for community colleges. Sedway also produced correspondence from Senator Paul Laxalt which confirmed that separation of the community colleges from the University System (when the colleges matured) was an original concept held by both Laxalt and members of Elko's first community college committee.

The hearings in April, 1977 led to retaining the single structure for the administration of higher education; however, rumblings from legislators and educators left no doubt that the issue would surface again in the future.

Some of the loudest rumblings came from President Donnelly who, at the May community college graduation ceremonies held throughout the State, used these occasions to openly criticize the Governor and the Legislature in front of several Board of Regents members who were also present.

The Board of Regents, in a surprising and later to be determined illegal move, abolished the Community College Division presidency in June, 1977 and offered Dr. Donnelly a teaching position with the community college. Board Vice-Chairman Molly Knudtsen of Austin stated that the decision was purely a financial one made in the wake of the Legislature's elimination of nearly all of Donnelly's central office staff members which left him to function merely as a figurehead.

A furor arose over this action and the Regents came under fire because official statements and press releases from the University of Nevada System gave the impression that the abolition of Donnelly's position had been finalized. Larry Lessly, legal counsel for the Regents, explained that the Regents should have first amended the by-laws and codes to accommodate abolishing the president's position.

A bright note for President Donnelly was that the community college system in Nevada now had a headcount enrollment which exceeded the two universities. Statewide enrollment for community colleges was 16,004 while statewide enrollment for the two universities was 15,922.

Western Nevada Community College had a bright note of its own—it moved into its first new facility for the Reno-Sparks area in December, 1976. When the Nevada State
Legislature convened in January, 1977, it approved an addition which would more than triple space to provide instruction in a variety of occupational programs.

A new development occurred in Fallon which would lead to the establishment of a community college campus in that area. Elliot Lima, Western Nevada Community College administrator who was in charge of the Fallon Center, was receiving strong support and urging from Fallon citizens to seek the establishment of a building and campus to serve Fallon. This effort received increased impetus in Fall, 1976, when the college was able to start a day operation in the recently abandoned Oats Park Elementary School. Fallon citizens flocked to the new site to enroll for classes--many of them signing up as a gesture of support as well as interest in the classes being offered. State Senator Carl Dodge now began plans to spearhead an effort to have the 1977 legislature approve establishment of a community college branch in Fallon.

Dodge's strong efforts and those of the Fallon community did not bear fruit at the 1977 legislature, but they did not admit defeat--they simply regrouped their forces and made plans to approach the 1979 legislature.

While Dodge was not successful in getting a new campus of the Western Nevada Community College established at Fallon, it was primarily through his efforts and those of Assembly Speaker Joe Dini that the legislature recognized the need to provide a rural financing factor. Special funding was provided for health education in Yerington and Fallon, and a rural factor was added to the financing formula for Western Nevada Community College.

Controversy was also existent in Las Vegas where the issue of a second campus had split the Regents, legislators and the community. Regent Buchanan was supporting the Henderson site; Regent Fong and Dr. Marvin Sedway, chairman of an advisory site selection committee, were supporting the Charleston Heights location, and other individuals like Senator Floyd Lamb of Las Vegas were asking why there should be more than one community college campus when that money could be used to further develop Clark County Community College.

Governor O'Callaghan was opposed to new campuses and had not recommended either
the Henderson or the Fallon campus in his budget; however, he did recommend 6.9 million dollars for the new Western Nevada Community College addition in Reno and 1.3 million dollars for additions to the community college in Carson City.

The Henderson City Council, encouraged by the Regents' subsequent approval of the Henderson campus as a possible alternate site, made 80 acres of land available for the new campus at the city's cost. Prominent Las Vegan, Hank Greenspun, generously offered free land for a community college in the area of Green Valley, thus adding impetus for an alternate choice to the West Charleston campus site.

The Board of Regents, however, feeling that only one campus would be approved by the lawmakers in the 1977 legislature, went on record as supporting only the West Charleston Boulevard campus and Fallon sites. The Henderson and Fallon sites would have required appropriations from the general fund and it seemed politically expedient to give priority to the West Charleston site which could be funded with existing money.

This strategy was to no avail; the Senate Finance Committee axed all proposals to build any new community colleges.

SEVENTH YEAR OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, 1977-78:

In October, 1977, the Board of Regents took appropriate action to change the by-laws and University System Code and thereby place themselves in a legal position to eliminate President Donnelly's position. Each of the community college vice-presidents was elevated to president and each would report directly to the Board through the Chancellor.

Regents Fred Anderson and Louis Lombardi warned that the elimination of the central presidency could split the community colleges from the two universities in the future, but their pleas went unheeded.

Also approved was the addition of a community college coordinator to Chancellor Donald Baepler's staff to help coordinate relations among the three colleges.

Regents Anderson and Lombardi were not the only ones arguing against the abolition of the CCD presidency. Members of the Northern Nevada Community College Advisory Board asked the Regents to maintain the presidency of the community college division, leaving
the position vacant until the effectiveness of the new structure under a coordinator could be determined.

Also, Stan Aiazi, Chairman of the Faculty Senate at Northern Nevada Community College, said his group had voted overwhelmingly to go against the proposed code changes.

Chancellor Baepler concluded the discussion with the comment that the change was necessary because of the evolution of the system—that the concept of a single president was extremely useful in the development of the community college system and had contributed greatly to its progress, but that the time had come for a change.

Regent Brenda Mason also raised the question of splitting Western Nevada Community College's Reno-Sparks and Carson City campuses into two separate colleges. JoAnne Dain, Western Nevada Faculty Senate Chairwoman, made an eloquent plea for separation, but the question was tabled after Board Chairman Buchanan indicated he would not vote for more separate colleges.

It was at this time, also, that Dr. Baepler, interim Chancellor, told a legislative subcommittee that he opposed a separation of the university and community college systems. The subcommittee was charged by the 1977 legislature to look into the State's community college system in an effort to obtain information on future needs. Norman Glaser from Elko expressed his concern that he still felt that the Regents might not understand the philosophy of the community colleges. No changes ensued, but the issue of separation did not die.

In April, it was finally determined that separation by legislation was legal. In a letter to Senator Norman Glaser from Frank W. Dakin, Legislative Counsel Bureau, it was indicated that such separation was legal, but that the Board of Regents could not be required to accept community college credits if such separation occurred.

In August, 1977, Western Nevada Community College had its first fall registration in its new facility at 7000 Sullivan Lane. The college was placing increased emphasis upon problems of the handicapped both in the student service area and the community service area. Classes for the deaf and classes for wheelchair students were offered by the Community Services Division; while the staff of the student services area had begun an
in-depth study of the problems of handicapped students and displaced homemakers.

Western Nevada Community College's Fallon center was a hub of citizen activity in the spring of 1978. A group of citizens banded together under the title "Community Concerns" and prepared a survey in support of a permanent community college facility in Fallon.

While Western Nevada Community College enjoyed an increase in student enrollment of approximately 22 percent, the Henderson Center of Clark County Community College experienced a 17 percent increase in the spring semester enrollment. This increase, coupled with the Board of Regents earlier approval of the purchase of land in Henderson for a future campus, made brighter the prospect of a Henderson community college facility.

Northern Nevada Community College received approval for a new program after a group representing the hospital and medical community of Elko urged passage of a new Associate in Applied Science degree in nursing. Board of Regents approval paved the way for nurses to be trained in Elko.

EIGHTH YEAR OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, 1978-79

One of the most significant events of the 1978-79 school year was the funding by the 1979 legislature of two new community college facilities—one at Henderson and one at Fallon. The legislature appropriated $1,924,000 for the Henderson facility and $851,000 for the Fallon facility. Efforts at the grass roots level in these two small communities had paid off handsomely. Like Carson City, Henderson had made available land at no real cost to the system and the City of Fallon had offered 30 acres at Mt. Toyeh on a 99-year lease at $10 per year. The legislature was responsive to the aggressiveness and enthusiasm of these small town Nevadans and what had seemed to be far-fetched dreams now became realities.

The growth record of the community colleges since 1971 continued its upward spiral, with a 20 percent increase at Clark County Community College, an 11 percent increase at Northern Nevada Community College; and a 22 percent increase at Western Nevada Community College.

The 1978-79 school year was also significant in that the Board of Regents approved
a $5,700,000 construction program for the Reno-Sparks campus of Western Nevada Community College and a $1,193,822 construction budget for the college's Carson City campus. The two new additions were designed to make available new vocational training programs. Ground breaking for the new 100,000 square foot addition to the Reno campus occurred in January, 1979.

Discussion of the Tadlock report on community colleges in August, 1978 raised once again the issue of dividing Western Nevada Community College into two separate colleges. The WNCC Faculty Senate expressed the faculty's concern that the two campuses be divided into two separate colleges, that the Community College Division office not be re-established, that some mechanism be created to expedite the adoption of by-laws for the colleges, and that the colleges be better represented on UN System committees.

The Regents indicated they would pursue these concerns and they also approved Chancellor Baepler's recommendation not to re-establish a Community College Division Presidency, but to provide for a Coordinator of Community Colleges--one who would have the responsibility to coordinate but not to administrate.

The Tadlock report also triggered discussion on the concept of separating the community college system from the University of Nevada System. In March, 1979, Dr. Marvin Sedway of Las Vegas spoke on behalf of separation. Sedway was one of several persons who testified before the Senate Human Resources Committee studying measures to have the university Regents appointed and shorten their terms and have a separate community college board and president. The move to separate was spearheaded by Senator Norman Glaser, but was opposed by university administrators and by a legislative subcommittee. Decision was made that separation was premature at this time.

The Reno-Sparks area was now facing a surge in minority problems due to its unprecedented growth. The college's English as a Second Language program had almost doubled in size within one year, now reaching approximately 1,400 immigrants. Enrollment of immigrants and minorities in regular college programs also increased and it was necessary to appoint a committee on minority affairs.

There was also the problem of lack of funding by the legislature for interscholastic
community college programs and the problem of the loss of the Billinghamurst gym in Spring, 1979. Although the Wildcat team had contributed greatly as a unifying force for staff and students and had been a major contributor to the identity of the college, decision was made to abandon this program in accordance with the legislators wishes.

Clark County Community College also reflected new growth. President Paul Kreider obtained approval from the Board of Regents for three new departments--Real Estate and Finance, Fine Arts and Communications, and English and Foreign Language.

NINTH YEAR OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, 1979-80

As Nevada community colleges approached the end of their first decade of existence, they found themselves involved in a number of significant developments.

Western Nevada Community College was divided by the Board of Regents in December, 1979. The Reno-Sparks campus became Truckee Meadows Community College while the Carson City campus and its outlying centers retained the Western Nevada Community College title. V.J. Eardley became first president of the new college.

Truckee Meadows Community College was expanding both its facilities and its instructional programs. Business occupation classes had increased 60 percent from 1976 to 1979. New majors were added in small business management, insurance and hotel-motel management. Also, the business and mathematics departments were in the process of instituting a major thrust in computer-assisted instruction. The Community Education Division was offering over 100 classes as well as reaching another 1300 persons in its adult basic education program and approximately 1100 teachers in its school district inservice training program. In addition, Truckee Meadows Community College was undergoing a self-study in preparation for accreditation which it received in June, 1980.

Western Nevada Community College, also, was in the thrust of a building program, both for its Carson City campus and the new Fallon campus. A new site had to be selected for the Fallon center because the Naval Air Station changed its flight patterns putting the proposed college site directly in line with the new flight pattern. In March, 1980, the Regents approved an 11.9 acre site (the old rodeo grounds) which the City of Fallon was willing to lease.
WNCC was also involved in self-study for accreditation and the development of new programs. In May, 1980, WNCC received Regents approval for new two-year programs in Automotive Technology, Surveying Technology, Welding Technology and Traffic Safety.

Northern Nevada Community College was preparing for a building program. Approval was received from the Regents in March, 1980 to develop on-campus housing for NNCC students. This was an important development for rural students who could find no housing in Elko.

Clark County Community College found itself in a program of expansion and self-study for accreditation. In addition to the college's own remodeling and building program, it was involved with plans for construction of the new Henderson 23,000 square foot college facility. In the area of instructional programs, the college developed a new gaming careers program; a new outreach program to expand college classes to Boulder City, Mesquite, Indian Springs, Overton (Moapa Valley), Jean and to Pahrump in Nye County; and it developed an Associate of General Studies Telecourse Degree in conjunction with Coastline Community College District and Nellis Air Force Base. President Judith Eaton also found herself in the midst of an organizational restructuring occasioned by the mandate of the 1979 legislature that administrative costs be reduced.

The Board of Regents took a variety of important actions during the 1979-80 term. Upon the recommendation of Regent McBride, the Board dissolved the old community college division structure and eliminated the position of a vice-chancellor for community colleges, substituting a community college analyst in its place. Expressions of concern were still voiced over this matter by some Regents, especially in regard to standards, admissions requirements, coordination and availability of staff expertise at a higher level. The Board adopted the concept that the colleges should help themselves by sharing information and expertise and that there should be opportunity for rational diversity within a general policy framework.

The Board of Regents approved a secret ballot election at the request of the Nevada State Education Association which was seeking to represent the faculty of the Community College Division in collective bargaining. When the returns were counted in November, 1979, the request was defeated by a vote of 87 to 66.
The Regents and the community colleges started the decade of the eighties on a positive note. The Max C. Fleischmann Foundation, which had in the past given all three community colleges 100,000 each to start their libraries, now made generous donations to the university system and the community colleges when the Foundation was dissolved on July 4, 1980. In less than a decade, Nevada would have six separate community college facilities and could boast of community support that was second to none. The cooperation between the school districts and the community colleges which had enabled the colleges to achieve so much so soon showed every sign of continuing. The public news media had been supportive of the community college movement from its inception, and the many institutions and agencies with whom the community colleges had been working continued to give their support and cooperation.

Two major hurdles remained to be overcome. One was the need for increased money from the legislature to finance the rapidly expanding colleges at a time when "economy" was the by-word of every political platform; and the second was the need to obtain consensus among legislators, educators and citizens of the State as to how Nevada wished to define the role and functions of its community colleges.