Western Nevada Community College started in the fall of 1971 with classes offered at two main campuses and in a half a dozen centers.

The administrative offices and several classrooms for the new college were housed in the old civic auditorium building at Carson City. At the same time another campus began operation at Stead using former military base structures. Classes were also offered at Fallon, Yerington, Hawthorne, Incline Village and Zephyr Cove, and at Reno and Wooster High Schools in Reno. The enrollment that first fall was 705 individual students.

Western took over the Washoe County School District's evening program of adult classes with the transfer effected smoothly over a three year period of time.

This past fall (1976) as Western Nevada entered its sixth year the enrollment was more than 6,500. The college's first new building was occupied in Carson City in time to start the spring semester in January of 1975. The college's second building will be occupied north of Reno in time to start the spring semester in January of 1977.

The rural centers have increased in numbers and sizes—for instance, Fallon serves more than 350 individual students.

Western Nevada Community College received full accreditation in December of 1975. This formal recognition was earned in minimum time. The evaluation that visited the college reported students indicate a feeling that the quality of instruction is excellent.

At the same time the evaluation committee from the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges recommended that the college should be separated into two administrative units—one centered in Carson city and the other in Reno.

Accordingly the college has been separated into a North Campus to serve the Reno area's urban population, and a South Campus in Carson City to serve the community needs of the seven non-urban counties.

The college emphasizes occupational training. More than 60 percent of its students are enrolled in occupational courses in business, the health sciences, cosmetology, fire science and law enforcement programs. A fourth of the students are studying academic courses to qualify for upper division university programs. Other students are enrolled in community service courses studying subjects of special interest to them personally, or in developmental courses to improve their basic skills in English and mathematics.