COMMUNITY COLLEGES ENROLL 1,740 STUDENTS

Nevada's three community colleges have a total headcount enrollment of 1,740 students which reduces to an equivalent of 686 full-time students, Dr. Charles Donnelly, President of the new Community College Division, told University Regents here Friday.

Approximately 57 percent of these students are enrolled in occupational programs. The goal of the new system is to have 60 percent in occupational training.

"We are extremely pleased that we have come so close to our goal in occupational programs in the first year," Donnelly said. "The national average for community colleges is only 35 percent and we have far exceeded that."

The occupational programs are in agriculture, business, health, industrial and public service.

16 Locations

The three community colleges operate program centers in outlying communities so that classes are held in 16 locations in the state and 97 percent of the people in Nevada are within one hour's driving distance of one of the locations, Donnelly said.

Elko Community College offers classes in Winnemucca, Wells and Ely. Clark County Community College offers classes in Boulder City and at the
Skill Center in Las Vegas in addition to those on the main campus. Western Nevada Community College offers classes in Carson City and in Reno at the Stead Air Base and evening classes at Wooster and Reno High Schools, and also evening classes at Fallon, Yerington, Hawthorne, Incline Village and Zephyr Cove.

Enrollment by Schools

Elko Community College has a total of 494 students that reduces to an equivalent of 209 full-time students. Clark County Community College has a headcount of 402 with a full-time equivalent of 163. (There are an additional 139 students at the Skill Center in Las Vegas under the administration of Clark County Community College.) Western Nevada Community College has a headcount enrollment of 705 and a full-time equated enrollment of 210.

Credit Hours

The figures show that Elko students average 6.7 credit hours per student, Clark County 6.5 credit hours and Western Nevada only 4.8 credit hours. The Elko campus students average 9 credit hours and the Reno student load averages 8 credit hours.

"These figures show that the community colleges are appealing to many part-time students and this was one of our primary objectives," Donnelly said. "The national average credit hour load per community college student is about 9."

Many Adults

Analysis of the enrollment at Western Nevada Community College indicates a high percentage of adult enrollment.
More than one-third of the students are over 30 years of age, 41 percent are 21 to 30, and only 23 percent are under 21. Women outnumber men by a ratio of five to four; and among the women, married women outnumber single girls by three to one.

In Carson City women outnumber men by about three to one, but the Reno enrollment is about evenly divided between men and women.

Minority Groups

At Clark County Community College about 23 percent of the enrollment comes from minority groups. At the Skill Center in Clark County the minority group enrollment is 83 percent.

These percentages are higher than the native population of Southern Nevada and higher than the national average. In both cases the community college is serving people not previously being served.

"We have only scratched the surface with developmental programs. They are difficult to initiate because they require skilled personnel with special motivation," Donnelly said. "This is one of our goals that we intend to work hard on in the future."

Day and Evening

Another goal, he said, is to offer classes both day and evenings to provide more service to more people.

"We offer classes from 7:30 in the morning through 10 o'clock in the evening and have maintained a fairly even balance between day and evening sections with 53 percent of our classes being held after 4 p.m. or on Saturday," Donnelly said.
Class Sizes

The colleges had hoped that class size would average about 20, Donnelly said. However, the class size in Clark County Community College has averaged 17.5, in Elko 12.8 and in Western Nevada 13.3.

The three colleges, two of them new this year, are all making normal progress toward full accreditation by the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools, he said.