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Message from the President

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

February 1, 1974

Upon assuming the presidency of Tyler State College, one of the initial statements I made was that the primary concern of Tyler State College is for the STUDENT. That underlying all our efforts would be the development of a first class instructional program which means, of course, that superior professors who desire to work in an institution which stresses teaching would be sought and attracted to our institution. The implication was, and is, that emphasis would be given to instructional programs that emphasize the student and the student's role in society upon completion of a degree program.

Further, at the time of accepting my responsibilities with Tyler State, I stated that I and those who join in assuming roles with the institution will endeavor to provide the academic atmosphere and the self-discipline vital to the student's sound intellectual growth and development; that the various curricular programs would be designed to stimulate the student's curiosity, broaden the student's perspective, enrich the student's awareness, deepen the student's understanding, establish disciplined habits of thought for the student, prepare the student for a vocation and help the student realize individual potential as a responsible and informed member of society.

^{Our}
~~My~~ plans have unfolded rapidly but always with quality in mind and, certainly, with the student in mind because without the student there is no raison d'etre.

The Tyler State College institutional purpose developed over a considerable period of time through the work of a representative group now states that Tyler State College, an upper division and graduate educational institution, has as its

purpose achievement of a variety of goals to satisfy the needs of its many constituencies. As a college community, it seeks to provide a setting for free inquiry, to ensure excellence in teaching, to encourage productive scholarship and research, and to meet the needs of students from area community and junior colleges and transfer students from other institutions. For the individual student, the college seeks to develop an analytical ability to solve problems, to instill an appreciation of aesthetics that will make possible a richer life, to prepare one for a productive role in society, and to establish a basis for continued self-improvement.

In order to insure the accomplishment of our stated purpose - our goals - an outstanding faculty and staff have been sought and obtained; individuals who are committed to the prime mission of the institution which starts and ends with the student. Our faculty and staff members are exceptionally well qualified for their professional roles and are dedicated individually and as a group to the proposition of providing the very best opportunity possible for a quality educational program at Tyler State College. You may be assured that the policy of attracting superior personnel to our institution will continue as new academic programs are added and existing programs expanded.

Although our current facilities are qualitatively adequate so far as temporary facilities are measured, there is no doubt that occupancy of the modern educational plant on the beautiful 207-acre permanent campus site in southeast Tyler will provide an immeasurable step forward for the institution. A goal of September, 1975, has been set for occupancy of the first permanent facilities and everything

possible, in spite of the energy crisis and general economic conditions of our country, is being done to meet this goal. Before some of our current students complete degree requirements, Tyler State College will be moving into its permanent home. Many hours of work by many people - both internally and externally - have been involved in planning a college campus that will be a credit to higher education in the State of Texas because, fundamentally, again this planning has been done with the student in mind. Facilities and academic programs, of course, must go together and I am confident that students will find a campus planned and developed in order to provide optimal educational functionality.

[Institutional accountability from the student's viewpoint is among the most significant accountability considerations.] The ~~formal and informal~~ procedures utilized at Tyler State to obtain measures of accountability from the student's ^{view} standpoint reveal acceptance of the institutional program at this point. ~~Needless to state,~~ The Board of Regents and personnel take pride in this fact. Growth of Tyler State from 178 during the spring of 1973, when a pilot program of classes was initiated, to 586 during the current 1974 spring semester one year later is a positive factor, indeed. Also, it is significant to note that graduate enrollment comprises 30% of the current student body.

Although Tyler State College is close, chronologically, to all its history because of its recent creation on June 10, 1971, much has transpired, some of which I have mentioned and alluded to above, which is of historical importance. I want to mention two other events of historical significance which are recorded in the annals of Tyler State College for all posterity. On January 11, 1973, Tyler State registered its first student - Autrey Parker McVicker, Jr. of Lufkin, Texas,

and on December 19, 1973, two students - Mrs. Wilma Jean Broadfoot and Mrs. Wanda Lee Guinn - completed all requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree. Mrs. Broadfoot's and Mrs. Guinn's degrees will be formally conferred, along with others, at the first commencement program on May 14, 1974. I mention these two events because it is apparent why registering students and having students complete degree requirements are of such fundamental significance.

I am exceedingly proud of our student body, both in quantity and quality. And as history continues to unfold with Tyler State College growing from infancy to a place of leadership in the educational life of our state and nation, it is incumbent upon all who are associated with the institution to contribute in a maximum way to achieve the goals that are before us now and that will be added through self-study and self-examination in the days ahead. An educational institution is known for the product it produces - that is, the student. Therefore, all our efforts, ~~both students and others charged with responsibilities at Tyler State College,~~ ^{Tyler State} must be directed toward making ~~our institution a better place for those for whom it exists - namely, the students.~~ ^{an instty. of} excellence.