

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ENTERPRISE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS (1965-1990)

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A DISSERTATION

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of Doctor of Education
in the Department of Educational Leadership,
Policy and Technology Studies
in the Graduate School of
The University of Alabama

TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

2016

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ABSTRACT

Community Colleges often fail to document their own local histories. Local leaders involved in the establishment of their local community colleges' stories have not been told about their institutions. This is especially the case for the Alabama Community College System. Alabama lacks documented histories of its two-year institutions. As of today, the Alabama Community College System history consists of three written local histories: Carlton Kelly's *The History and Development of John C. Calhoun State Community College*, Alta Milican's history of *Snead State Junior College*, and Reginald William Hall's *The History of Alexander City State Junior College: Its Beginning, Foundation and Progress*, which is today Central Alabama Community College. By 1988, twenty-five years after the system was established, the system had grown to include forty-one two-year institutions. Members of local community colleges have the potential to write the histories of their institutions, whether those institutions were established independently or created by mergers within the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority. Between 1979 and 2005, mergers reorganized the original forty-one institutions into twenty-five community colleges. Alabama's system of two-year junior colleges, technical colleges, and community colleges has evolved over a period of fifty years. Many of these institutions will celebrate their fiftieth anniversary in 2015, and many will celebrate without a history. This study will fill that void for Enterprise State Community College (ESCC).

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my family for ALWAYS believing and encouraging me to chase my dreams. I am so blessed to have the biggest cheering squad!!! I would like to especially thank my wife, Emily, for always being so supportive and allowing me time to complete my Ed.D. She spent many weekends alone with our two boys, Haze and William, and never once complained while I was doing my research. I am so blessed to have you go through life with me. Thank you for your love and prayers. I love you to the moon and back. To my two precious boys for making me realize what is important in life. When times were tough and days were long, your laughter made this journey worthwhile. I always hope you are proud of your dad, because I am so proud to be your daddy!!! Remember you can do anything you want to. You will always have the full support of your mom and me. I love you both very much. To my parents who convinced me that I could do anything I wanted even when I didn't believe in myself. I thank the Good Lord that you are my parents. While we are not able to pick our parents, I would not trade or pick somebody else to take your place. You both are fine examples of love, patience, and most of all sacrificing everything for your children. I would not be the man I am today without you, I hope I make you proud. I love you. To my brother who always knew how to motivate and challenge me to do better. While it always seemed my good was never good enough, I believe you always seen something in me that I could not see in myself. I love you and thank the Good Lord you are not only my brother, but my best friend. To my Mimi and Papa who always showered me with love and encouragement. I got my love for history as a child because I love and still do love, hearing Papa tell about the good ole days. I know my Mimi is

smiling down on me as I earn my doctorate. She has been with me every step of the way and while I may not see her, I know she is my guardian angel still watching over me. To my Aunt Frankie who has believed, encouraged, supported, and spoiled me my whole life. Every child would be lucky to call you their own, but I am blessed to call you my Aunt Frankie, I love you. Finally, my Uncle Jim who not only played football for the mighty Crimson Tide, he instilled in me a love for the University of Alabama that is still alive today. While I know he too is smiling from above, I am so glad he knew I graduated with my Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alabama. Roll Tide Uncle Jim!!! I love you all so much and each of you shares a part in this accomplishment.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Advanced Institutional Development Program	AIDP
Alabama Commission of Higher Education	ACHE
Alabama Commission of Post-Secondary Education	ACPSE
Alabama Community College System	ACCS
Alabama Department of Post-Secondary Education	ADPSE
Alabama Education Commission	AEC
Alabama Education Study Commission	AESC
Alabama Education Commission, Junior College Sub-Committee	JCSC
Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology	AIAT
Alabama School of Trades	AST
Alabama State Board of Education	ASBE
Alabama State Board of Education Junior College Committee	ASBEJCC
Alabama State Board of Education Minutes	ASBEM
Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority	ATSJCA
American Association of Junior Colleges	AAJC
Andalusia Development Company	ADC
Armed Forces Committee on Post-War Educational Opportunities` for Service Personnel	AFCPWEO
Basic Educational Opportunity Grant	BEOG
Chipola Junior College	CJC
College Facilities Act of 1963	CFA

College Level Examination Program	CLEP
Community College Council	CCC
Decatur School of Trades	DTS
Displaced Homemaker Program	DHMP
Division of Research and Higher Education of the Alabama State Department of Education	DRHE
Economic Opportunity Act	EOA
Endowment Challenge Grant	ECG
Enterprise Junior College Committee	EJCC
Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, Junior College Interim Committee	ECCJCC
Enterprise State Junior College	ESJC
Enterprise State Community College	ESCC
Family Financial Statement	FSS
Florida Citizens Committee on Education	FCCE
Higher Education Act of 1965	HEA
Institutional Priority Report	IPR
Northwest State Junior College	NWSJC
Oil & Gas Windfall Bill	OGWB
Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Street Act	OCCSSA
Palm Beach Junior College	PBJC
Performance Art Building	PAB
Phi Theta Kappa	PTK
Service members Opportunity Grant	SOC
Service members Opportunity Associate Degree Network	SOCAD

Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant	SEOG
Southern Association of Schools and Colleges	SACS
Trade School Survey Committee	TSSC
Troy State University	TSU
Vocational Education Act of 1963	VEA
Vocational Equity Grant	VEG
Women’s Educational Equity Act	WEEA

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank the many colleagues, friends, and faculty members who have helped me with this history. I am most indebted to Wayne J. Urban, the chair of this dissertation, for sharing his research expertise and wisdom regarding the history of higher education. I would like to thank all my committee members, David Hardy, Peter Hlebowitsh, Stephen Katsinas, and Dustin Smith for their invaluable input, guidance, and support of both the dissertation and my academic progress. I would like to thank Dr. Joseph D. Talmadge, Dr. David Chalker, Dr. Henry L. “Chip” Quisenberry, Mr. Tommy Johnson, Nancy Brunson, Gene Daniels, and Dr. Scott Smith for their guidance and support to write the history of Enterprise State Community College. I appreciate all the feedback and stories you provided while writing this history. A special thank you to Stephanie Eason and Dr. Anna Head for reviewing my work and supporting me along the way. I would like to thank the Library Resource Center at ESCC, Linda Stephens, Becky Stephens, Susan Sumblin, and Phyllis Tanner, for helping me locate sources and requesting sources for this history. You all are appreciated. A very special thank you to Jill Stallworth for providing governmental documents for this history. Any time I needed anything you always were so helpful, thank you! To the staff at the Pea River Historical Society, thank you for preserving our local history. Finally to all the employees and students who have worked so hard to get an education from ESCC. You are proof of how special ESCC is and your success continues to make me proud to be a part of our history. Go Weevils!!!

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INTRODUCTION

While attending the Alabama Legislative breakfast in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Alabama Community College System, originally passed as the Alabama Junior College and Trade School Authority on May 3, 1963, I was part of a celebration dedicated to the success of the system.¹ The breakfast reminded me that Enterprise State Community College (ESCC) will celebrate its 50th anniversary on September 30, 2015. While planning to provide historical information on the establishment of Enterprise State Community College (ESCC), I realized ESCC lacks a recorded history. Knowing that a history is needed to preserve the past, honor achievements and prepare for the future, I set off to document the first twenty- five years of ESCC (1965-1990). This historical study will identify and analyze the significant events and the pioneer leaders that shaped ESCC.

Learning from the past can assist leaders with preparing for the future. Identifying historical people and events can help future leaders and current employees understand the climate of their institution. As the first generation of leaders has died or aged, it is important to understand the history left behind. While it is significant to identify the establishment of the College as a member of the Alabama Community College System, my historical research identified local leaders who contributed to Enterprise being awarded a junior college. By studying the history of Enterprise State Community College, the past comes alive, the dreams of the pioneer leaders are shared, and future initiatives are informed.

¹ Stephen G. Katsinas, "George C. Wallace and the Founding of Alabama's Two-Year Colleges," *The Journal of Higher Education* 65, no.4 (1994): 447-472.

Statement of the Problem

Limited historical records on the history of the Alabama Community College System exist. The majority of the research focused on the significance of Governor George C. Wallace's efforts to establish a system of junior and technical colleges. For example, Dr. Stephen Katsinas identified the politics involved in establishing the system.² J. Catherine Randall's dissertation identified how Governor Wallace multiplied junior and technical colleges throughout Alabama.³ James F. Van Horn's dissertation covered the history of the system from 1958-1970.⁴ Dustin Smith contributed to Alabama's history of two-year education from 1866-1963.⁵ Little historical information exists related to individual colleges in the system. According to Weiger, it is common for two-year institutions not to have a written history.⁶ I identified three community colleges in the system, John C. Calhoun State Community College, Alexander City State Junior College, and Snead Junior College with written histories.⁷ These institutions changed names

² Katsinas, "George C. Wallace," 447-472.

³ J. Catherine Randall, "A Kudzu-ing of Colleges: The Proliferation and Balkanization of Higher Education in Alabama" (Ph.D. diss., University of Alabama, 2001), 86-131.

⁴ James F. Van Horn, "A History of the Alabama Public Junior College (1958-1970)" (Ph.D. diss., University of Alabama, 1971).

⁵ Dustin Smith, "A Century of Change: The History of Two-Year Education in the State of Alabama, 1866-1963" (Ed.D. diss., University of Alabama, 2012).

⁶ Pamela R Weiger, "Maintaining a Historical Perspective," *Community College Week*, 14 June 1999, p. 1-2.

⁷ Carlton Kelley, *History and Development of John C. Calhoun State Community College* (Decatur, AL. Greene Publishing Company, 1974); Alta Millican, "Snead State Junior College" (master's thesis, University of Alabama, 1948); Reginald William Hall, "The History of Alexander City State Junior College: Its Beginning, Foundation, and Progress, 1963-1980" (Ed.D. diss., University of Alabama, 1981).

throughout the system's history. Today, John C. Calhoun State Community College is Calhoun Community College, Alexander City State Junior College is Central Alabama Community College and Snead State Junior College is Snead State Community College. Only one institution recorded the events of its first president: Alexander State City Junior College, which was documented by Byron Causey, the first President of Alexander City State Junior College.⁸ Unfortunately, Enterprise State Community College, along with the other twenty- two institutions, lacks a written history.

While preparing for its 50th anniversary, I learned that many of the College's pioneer leaders are still living. At this time, the first Dean of Instruction and second President Dr. Joseph D. Talmadge, the first Dean of Students Mr. Tommy Johnson, and several original faculty members are alive and proved to be invaluable in recording the history of the institution.

This study identifies the College's leaders who worked tirelessly for a junior college to be established in Enterprise, Alabama. These leaders were not only a piece of the College's history; they made history while they served the institution. While writing ESCC's history, I collected resources from written primary sources and from interviews of key people who experienced significant events during the first twenty- five years of Enterprise State Community College.

Research Problems

Identifying major people, events, and issues during the first twenty- five years (1965-1990) of Enterprise State Community College will be the primary research question for this historical study. This study will review how the College was affected by key social events, local

⁸ Edith Cameron Blankenship, *Byron Causey: Father of a College* (Alexander City: Colonial Press, 1991).

leaders and political events. In order to identify these leaders and events, this study followed Gordon N. MacKenzie's "Potential for Direct and Indirect Action" theory on enacting change. Mackenzie identified "Potential for Direct and Indirect Action" agents of change based on their "direct authority of position" or their indirect ability to make changes "they may exert through persuasion."⁹ Mackenzie acknowledged "there are at least ten major groups of potentially direct-indirect action agents: students, teachers, principals, supervisors, superintendents, boards of education, local communities, state legislatures, state boards or departments of education, and state and federal courts."¹⁰

For the purpose of this study, we will identify the direct and indirect impact on the College in relation to local community leaders, students, faculty, the College presidents, the Enterprise State Community College Foundation, local and state politicians, the Alabama State Board of Education, the Alabama State Legislature, the five governors whose terms overlapped the first twenty-five years of the College, and the United States Congress.

In order to answer the research problem, four questions have been identified.

1. What major events led to the establishment of the Alabama Community College System?
2. What local events led to the development of Enterprise State Community College?

⁹ Gordon N. MacKenzie, "The Social Context of Curricular Change," *Theory into Practice*, 1, no. 4 (October 1962): 185-190. See Also Gordon N. MacKenzie, "Curricular Change: Participants, Power and Processes," in *Innovation in Education*. ed. Matthew Miles (New York: Teachers College Press, 1964).

¹⁰ Ibid.

3. What impact did the development of the Alabama Community College System have on Enterprise State Community College?

4. Who were the movers and shakers of the institution?

Significance of the Study

This historical study will contribute to the lack of written information regarding community colleges. According to Witt, Wattenbarger, Gollattscheck, and Suppiger “most of the important writings that now form the foundation of the history and community colleges were written as contemporary analyses and only incidentally tie in past events.¹¹ Neglecting to provide a history of community colleges denies the “most important higher education innovation of the twentieth century” a documented past.¹² For example, Witt et al stated:

Landmark books such as Leonard Koo’s *The Junior College Movement* (1925), Walter Eells’s *The Junior College* (1931), Jesse Bogue’s *The Community College* (1950), Leland Medsker’s *The Junior College: Progress and Prospect* (1960), and Edmund J. Gleazer’s *The Community College: Values, Vision, and Vitality* (1980) were primarily concerned with explaining, defining, and validating the place of community and junior colleges in American higher education in their respective times.¹³

Research has documented the importance of community colleges. Unfortunately, educational scholars failed to agree on the reason junior colleges were established. According to Pedersen, community college histories mistakenly focused on community colleges established as part of a “national movement intent on fundamentally transforming an elitist higher education into a

¹¹ Allen A. Witt, et al., *America’s Community Colleges: The First Century* (Washington D.C: Community College Press, 1994), xvii.

¹² Ibid, 1.

¹³ Ibid, xvii.

democratic and socially efficient system of advanced learning.”¹⁴ The “elitist system” allowed students to attend the first two years of college, but the junior and senior level, consisted of the third and fourth years of an undergraduate degree, accepted only the brightest students. Instead of providing an opportunity, the “elitist system” portrayed the original junior college as being focused on who could and could not advance to complete an undergraduate degree. Neither the Alabama Community College System nor Enterprise State Community College’s establishment focused on separating education for the benefit of elite students. In fact, the system was established to provide access to higher education.¹⁵ The historical documentation will show

¹⁴ Robert Pedersen, “The Origins and Development of the Early Public Junior College: 1900-1940.” (Ph.D. Diss., Columbia University, 1999), 124-125.

¹⁵ The researcher acknowledges the two most common views on community colleges; the Traditionalist and Leftist view. Traditionalists believe community colleges provide access and opportunity for higher education. Community Colleges commonly are referred to as “Democracy Colleges” or “Open Access” institutions because they do not have selected admission requirements. For more resources on the Traditionalist views see: Arthur M. Cohen and Florence B. Brawer, *The American Community College*, 4th ed. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003); Robert A. Rhoads and James R. Valdez, *Democracy, Multiculturalism, and the Community College: A Critical Perspective* (New York: Garland, 1996); Kathleen M. Shaw, James R. Valdez, and Robert A. Rhoads, *Community Colleges as Cultural Texts* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1999); James R. Valdez, “Transformation of the Community Colleges for the 21st Century,” *Educational Researcher* 31, no. 2(2002): 33-36. Leftists view community colleges as an institution used to promote technical training for workforce development. Instead of assisting students with access, and affordability like Traditionalists, Leftists view community colleges as institutions promoting social inequality by offering the lower socio-economic class technical programs. Instead of promoting higher education, socialists view community colleges as limiting students upward mobility due to offering the same type of programs: programs geared towards workforce needs. For more resources on the Leftist’s views see: Steven Brint and Jerome Karabel, *The Diverted Dream: Community Colleges and the Promises of Educational Opportunity in America, 1900-1985* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989); Burton Clark, *The Open Door College: A Case Study* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1960); Kevin J. Dougherty, *The Contradictory College: The Origins, Impacts, and Futures of the Community College* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1994); Jerome Karabel, “Community Colleges and Social Stratification: Submerged Class Conflict in American Higher Education,” *Harvard Education Review* 42 (1972): 551; L. Steven Zwering, *Second Best: The Crisis of the Community College* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1976). The author believes in the traditionalist view.

ESCC was created to promote higher learning to students in local communities, not to limit access. According to Cohen and Brawer and Pedersen, community colleges were established to meet the local needs in the communities.¹⁶

As indicated, written histories of individual community colleges in the state of Alabama are rare. On a national level, community colleges do not get any more historical attention. According to Philo Hutchinson, “A careful search of the literature revealed only three scholars who substantially addressed community college history....”¹⁷ It is time local community college histories are told. As Cohen and Brawer stated, “... the rise of two-year colleges to the efforts of local, civic, and professional leaders has merit.”¹⁸ Unless local community colleges provide their history, “the research university [becomes] the means for understanding United States higher education in its institutional form.”¹⁹

According to Cohen and Brawer, "Books on higher education published from the turn of the century, when the first community college appeared, through the 1980s rarely gave even a nod to the community college; one searches in vain for a reference to them in indexes."²⁰ Attention on the community college and its history needs to increase. As Matthew Delmont

¹⁶ Pedersen, “Origins and Development,” 124-125; Arthur M. Cohen and Florence B. Brawer, “The American Community College, 5th ed.” (2008), 10-11.

¹⁷ Philo A. Hutcheson, “Reconsidering the Community College.” *History of Education Quarterly* 39, no. 3 (Autumn 1999): 307-320.

¹⁸ Cohen and Brawer, *American Community College*, 5th ed., 12.

¹⁹ Hutcheson, “Reconsidering the Community College,” 317.

²⁰ Cohen and Brawer, *American Community College*, 5th ed., 35.

noted, “In either praise or critique, scholars have largely looked at the expansion of community colleges as a national phenomenon, rather than examining the specific circumstances surrounding the campaigns for individual institutions.”²¹ Since community college histories lack significance at the national and local level, writing a local history will be a challenge.

In 1963, the system was established by the Alabama Legislature’s approval for five trade schools and junior colleges.²² In twenty-five years, the system grew from five trade schools and junior colleges to forty-one two year institutions.²³ Between 1987 and 2003 mergers occurred, decreasing the system to twenty- six colleges consisting of twenty-five community colleges and the Marion Military Institute.²⁴ Merging these institutions resulted in merging faculty, staffs and different cultures. A history of individual community colleges could help reveal the institutional effects of these mergers. However, with no recorded individual histories to research, many community college leaders faced challenges while consolidating our system. By documenting the history of ESCC, internal and external stakeholders can learn from the past to assist with making plans for the future.

Finally, there is a need to document Alabama’s community college history. As the Alabama Community College System celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, the key leaders of the

²¹ Matthew Delmont, “Working toward a Working-Class College: The Long Campaign to Build a Community College in Philadelphia,” *History of Education Quarterly* 54, no.4 (November 2014): 434-435. Matthew Delmont is an Associate Professor of History at Arizona State University. He is noted for his research contributions towards the lack of community college histories.

²² Katsinas, “George C. Wallace,” 447-472.

²³ *Ibid*, 447.

²⁴ “Alabama Community College System: ACCS History,” Alabama Community College System, accessed November 11, 2014, <https://www.accs.cc/index.cfm/about-accs/history/>.

system are retiring or dying. As these losses mount, their experiences and stories vanish with them. Our community college history dies along with them. As stated in the *Community College Week* article "Maintaining a Historical Perspective,"

Many founding administrators, presidents and trustees still are alive and able to help recreate their institutions' histories. But several have died in recent years, taking their stories with them. As one of the largest single groups of college founders in American higher education history continues to age, some experts fear important chapters in the history of two- year institutions could go unwritten and unrecoverable.²⁵

City leaders who devoted parts of their lives to establishing a junior college in Enterprise are deceased. The first president Mr. B.A. Forrester, who died in 1997, left a legacy still honored today. His contributions still exist at the College, but he is not able to provide any insight on the history of the College.²⁶ While he may no longer be with us, his legacy lives on each time a new student enrolls in a certificate or an associate's degree program, transfers to a four-year institution or enters the workforce. Community colleges nationwide must preserve the history pioneers left behind. If we fail to tell their stories, we will lose a piece of community college history. As Dr. Terry O'Banion, former president of the League of Innovation in the Community College, stated, "A lot of material will be forever lost to schools that don't have a mindset to preserve."²⁷ The histories of individual community colleges in the Alabama Community College System need to be collected. This study will aid in providing additional community college histories by preserving the history of Enterprise State Community College.

²⁵ Weiger, "Maintaining a Historical Perspective," 1-2.

²⁶ *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog 1998-2000* (Enterprise: Enterprise State Junior College, 1998), 4-5.

²⁷ Weiger, "Maintaining a Historical Perspective," 1-2.

CHAPTER 1

THE JUNIOR COLLEGE IDEA

The idea for two lower levels of liberal arts education surfaced in the 1850s at the University of Michigan.²⁸ It continued to catch educational leaders' curiosity, but forty years passed before the idea was implemented. Educational leaders, such as Henry Phillip Tappan from Michigan, William Folwell from Minnesota, and Andrew Dickinson White from Cornell University, discussed how to separate their institutions into a lower level and upper level of undergraduate studies from 1850 to 1870.²⁹ These elite educational leaders believed students' performances during the first two years of college indicated their ability to complete the junior and senior years. Elite faculty focused on research, and did not want to waste time preparing students who lacked the ability to complete the first two years of higher education.³⁰ The junior college's original concept served two functions. First, the junior college promoted students who could complete the third and fourth years in college. Second, the junior college identified students the faculty believed unable to complete the junior and senior year of a baccalaureate degree. Educational leaders feared "universities would not become true research and professional

²⁸ John S. Brubacher and Willis Rudy, *Higher Education in Transition* (Transaction Publishers: New York, 2008), 254.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 254.

³⁰ Steven Brint and Jerome Karbel, *The Diverted Dream: Community Colleges and the Promises of Educational Opportunity in America, 1900-1985* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989), 23-26.

development centers until they relinquished their lower-division preparatory work.”³¹ While elite universities tried to separate higher education into two levels, the first elite separation occurred under the leadership of William Rainey Harper.³² In 1892, Harper focused on two goals: reducing lower-level enrollment at the University of Chicago and encouraging local Chicago high schools to offer the first two years of college credit.³³ Harper succeeded by establishing a partnership with J. Stanley Brown, principal of Joliet High School, who offered the first two years of college coursework. Historians believe Joliet Junior College’s establishment in 1901 was the beginning of the first public junior college in the United States.³⁴ Identifying Joliet Junior College as the first public junior college created disagreement among educational scholars. For example, Lasell College, formerly Auburndale Female Seminary founded in 1856, claims to be the oldest Junior College in America.³⁵ According to Witt et al., the claim is not justified due to the catalog description of the school.³⁶ As stated in *America’s Community Colleges: The First Century*, “Lasell ‘produced first-rate...women, full of practical knowledge

³¹ Arthur M. Cohen and Florence B. Brawer, *The American Community College*, 5th ed. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008), 6-7.

³² Brint and Karbel, *Diverted Dream*, 24-25.

³³Ibid, 6-7.

³⁴ Betty Read, *The Community-Junior College* (Washington, D.C.: U.S Department of Health, Education and Welfare Office of Education, 1969), 2; George B. Vaughn, *The Community College in America: A Short History* (Washington, D.C.: American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, 1982), 4.

³⁵ Allen A. Witt, et al., *America’s Community Colleges: The First Century* (Washington D.C: Community College Press, 1994), 11. Today Auburndale Female Seminary is Lasell College, located in Newton, Massachusetts.

³⁶ Ibid, 11

for daily living and versed in the classics as well’.”³⁷ Because Lasell focused on educating women for daily knowledge, Witt and others agreed the “seminary was more of finishing school for women than a two-year college.”³⁸ However, the Lasell College website still claims that institution to be the oldest: “Founded in 1851 as the Auburndale Female Seminary, Lasell was the first two-year college for women in the country at a time when a woman's place was considered to be in the home, not in the classroom.”³⁹ Historians disagree on the original junior college, but have accepted that the junior college movement started with Joliet Junior College in 1901. Subsequently, state university leaders viewed junior colleges as filters between terminating college at the sophomore level and promoting students to their junior and senior level of studies.

The Junior College movement intensified as state universities sponsored new institutions. The number of junior colleges more than doubled from twenty junior colleges in 1909 to 170 by 1919.⁴⁰ Clearly, the junior college movement gained momentum during the second decade of the twentieth century. The movement continued to grow with thirty-seven out of forty-eight states establishing junior colleges by 1922.⁴¹ In that year, Alabama remained one of only eleven states without a public junior college.

³⁷ Ibid, 11

³⁸ Ibid, 11.

³⁹ “Lasell College: Rich Past Bright Future,” Lasell College, accessed October 9, 2014, <http://www.lasell.edu/campus-life/activities-and-involvement/lasell-traditions-and-events/history.html>.

⁴⁰ Cohen and Brawer, *American Community College*, 5th ed., 14-15.

⁴¹ Ibid.

Alabama failed to gain a public junior college during the first two decades of the junior college movement. Alabama lacked state-supported two-year education because it faced a constitution designed to hinder local leaders from establishing higher education.⁴² The state constitution did not allow local leaders to raise funds without state officials' approval. The delegates of the 1901 state constitution convention desired to remove power from local community leaders.⁴³ Despite the hurdles, the Alabama School of Trades opened on September 14, 1925. Because the constitution hindered local leaders from raising taxes, local leaders had to turn to state support, which would not be forthcoming for another twenty-two years.⁴⁴ In 1947, under the Regional and Vocational Trade School Act, Alabama created four regional trade schools. The Alabama School of Trades specialized in technical education, but also was the first instance when Alabama provided state funding to operate post-secondary education. Alabama continued to fund one state supported technical school until 1947. Although Alabama endured World War I (1917-1918), the Great Depression (1929-1941), and World War II (1941-1945), the expansion of public two-year education stalled. Several subsequent national events led to an increase in the junior college movement in Alabama. Between 1946 and 1964, The Service Members Readjustment Act (GI Bill) and The Civil Rights Movement increased enrollments from the baby boomers, and the successful Soviet launch of Sputnik facilitated the expansion of the junior college movement.

⁴² Wayne Flynt, *Alabama in the 20th Century* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2004), 17-25.

⁴³ *Ibid*, 110.

⁴⁴ Dustin Smith, "A Century of Change: The History of Two-Year Education in the State of Alabama, 1866-1963" (Ed.D diss., University of Alabama, 2012), 91.

Alabama realized the effects of these national events and responded by establishing a system of junior and technical colleges. By the time Alabama established a system of junior and technical colleges in 1963, neighboring southern states, such as Mississippi, Florida and Georgia, already provided citizens an opportunity to receive a two- year education.⁴⁵ Unfortunately, in Alabama, two-year education stalled as a priority. These four national events identified the weaknesses of Alabama’s capacity to offer post-secondary education.

Open Access: The Junior College Expansion (1945-1970)

As indicated, four national events are central to the junior college movement. These events clearly paved the way for a junior college system in Alabama. During the first six decades of the twentieth century, junior colleges were not a priority in Alabama. The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act (GI Bill), The Civil Rights Movement, the population boom represented by the baby boomers, and the launching of Sputnik, however, changed the situation in the state. These national events had the effect of loosening higher education enrollment restrictions. Each event paved the way for increased enrollments in two- year institutions in the nation and in Alabama.

The Service Members Readjustment Act

On June 12, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the American Service Members Readjustment Act. U.S. involvement in the war proved to be decisive. After four years of fighting (1941-1945), Europe was devastated, but the American economy was lifted and the United States emerged as the world’s superpower. While American soldiers fought with the

⁴⁵Eric Clark, “Mississippi,” in *Fifty State Systems of Community Colleges: Mission, Governance, Funding, and Accountability*, ed. Janice Nahra Friedel et al. (Johnson City Tennessee: Overmountain Press, 2014); Randall Hanna and Carrie Henderson, “Florida,” in *Fifty State Systems*, 57-58; Nathan Copeland and Christiana White, “Georgia,” in *Fifty State Systems*, 70-74.

allies to liberate Europe and defeat the Japanese forces, President Roosevelt focused on providing assistance for the men and women returning from war. Central to Roosevelt's plan was the provision of higher education.

Roosevelt experienced the difficult decision faced by President Harding (1921-1923) and Coolidge (1923-1929): To what extent should veterans be entitled to benefits for serving their country? This question surfaced during Harding's and Coolidge's presidencies. Returning World War I veterans received a suit of clothes, sixty dollars, and a train ride home for their service.⁴⁶ President Harding argued against a bonus bill for World War I veterans when he stated, "Though undying gratitude is the meed [sic] of every one who served, it is not to be said that a material bestowal is an obligation to those who emerged from the great conflict not only unharmed, but physically, mentally, and spiritually richer for the great experience."⁴⁷ During Harding's presidency, veterans received no bonus.

President Harding was not the only commander in chief who denied veterans a bonus. His successor President Coolidge did not believe veterans earned a bonus for their military service. President Coolidge argued military service was a part of living in a democracy. It was an honor to serve. President Coolidge stated:

Patriotism which is bought and paid for is not patriotism... Service to our country in time of war means sacrifice. It is for that reason alone that we honor and revere it. To attempt to make a money payment out of the earnings of the people to those who are physically well and financially able is to abandon one of our most

⁴⁶ Dixon Wecter, *When Johnny Comes Marching Home* (Cambridge, MA: The Riverside Press, 1944), 312.

⁴⁷ Warren G. Harding, "Text of President Harding's Bonus Veto Message," *New York Times*, September 20, 1922, <http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=9E04EEDB1139EF3ABC4851DFBF668389639EDE>.

cherished ideals.⁴⁸

Coolidge believed veterans served to protect and defend their country, not for an automatic benefit. Two years after President Harding successfully vetoed a bonus bill, Congress again passed another bill offering veterans a bonus for their military service. Supporters of a military bonus argued veterans earned a bonus due to low wages received while in service.⁴⁹ Coolidge vetoed the bonus bill; however, unlike President Harding who succeeded in vetoing a bonus bill, Coolidge's veto was overridden by Congress.⁵⁰ On May 19, 1924, The World War Adjustment Compensation Act passed. The Adjustment Compensation Act offered all veterans who served calculated earnings of \$1.00 a day for military service and \$1.25 a day for foreign military service.⁵¹ Veterans received a bonus but failed to receive an instant payment. Veterans eligible for \$50.00 or more received their bonuses twenty years after the certificates were issued.⁵² The bonus question was answered. According to the World War Adjustment Compensation Act, veterans received a bonus for military service. Unfortunately, delayed bonuses failed to provide economic relief desired by veterans. Ultimately, future economic conditions caused World War I veterans to demand their bonus earlier than scheduled. In 1932, WWI veterans marched on Washington demanding their bonuses.

⁴⁸ Paul Dickson and Thomas B. Allen, *The Bonus Army: An American Epic* (New York: Walker and Company, 2004), 28.

⁴⁹ Mark Boulton, "A Price on Freedom: The Problems and Promise of the Vietnam Era G.I. Bills." (PhD diss., University of Tennessee, 2005), 23-25.

⁵⁰ Michael J. Bennett, *When Dreams Came True: The GI Bill and the Making of Modern America* (Washington, DC: Brassey's, 1996), 58.

⁵¹ "VA History in Brief," The Department of Veteran Affairs, accessed June 23, 2014, http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/archives/docs/history_in_brief.pdf.

⁵² *Ibid*, 9.

Franklin D. Roosevelt desired the presidency in 1932. While he campaigned for the oval office, WWI veterans demanded their bonuses promised through the World War Compensation Adjustment Act of 1924. Roosevelt, too, struggled with veteran payments for service. Upon winning the election of 1932, he acted against WWI veterans by slashing veteran benefits. In 1933, Roosevelt reviewed the nation's budgets and learned that veterans, who accounted for 1% of the nation's population, received 24% of the nation's monies.⁵³ Roosevelt responded to the economic crisis once when he eliminated non-disabled veteran payments and reduced disabled veteran benefits under the Economy Act of 1933.⁵⁴ Roosevelt allowed veterans to maintain their bonuses but at a reduced rate. Roosevelt received criticism for the veterans' reduced rates.

Roosevelt responded to outraged veterans attending the American Legion Convention in Chicago:

No person, because he wore a uniform, must thereafter be placed in a special class of beneficiaries over and above all other citizens. The fact of wearing a uniform does not mean that he can demand and receive from his Government a benefit which no other citizen receives. It does not mean that because a person served in the defense of his country, performed a basic obligation of citizenship, he should receive a pension from his Government because of a disability incurred after his service had terminated, and not connected with that service.⁵⁵

President Roosevelt realized disabled veterans needed assistance, but he did not believe the government should provide able-bodied veterans assistance due to economic hardships.

Instead, Roosevelt offered struggling veterans an opportunity to work by enrolling them into the

⁵³Dickson and Allen, *Bonus Army*, 208.

⁵⁴ Boulton, "A Price on Freedom," 25.

⁵⁵ Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Address to the American Legion Convention," Chicago Illinois, October 2, 1933, accessed November 4, 2014, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=14521&st=&st1=>.

Civilian Conservation Corps.⁵⁶ Roosevelt feared veterans no longer viewed military service as part of a democracy but, instead, a pathway to government assistance. Roosevelt insisted veterans should not receive a bonus for service. In 1936, Congress overrode Roosevelt's veto and approved the veterans' bonuses.⁵⁷ Payments were authorized nine years before the due date. Roosevelt lost the battle of veteran payments in Congress but gained knowledge of the politics involved in providing assistance to veterans. When later preparing for the return of sixteen million veterans, Roosevelt believed a "handout" might weaken the economy. Instead of a bonus payment, Roosevelt offered veterans an opportunity to receive education benefits through the Service Members Readjustment Act.

The Service Members Readjustment Act proved to be a challenge for the Roosevelt Administration. While the debate continued over military bonuses, many political leaders realized that education and training benefited veterans.⁵⁸ Roosevelt resisted support for bonuses and searched for other measures to assist veterans. Roosevelt turned towards educational benefits. Roosevelt knew that during President Woodrow Wilson's presidency (1913-1921) disabled veterans received vocational training under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1918 to readjust to civilian life.⁵⁹

⁵⁶ Jennifer Keane, *Doughboys, the Great War and the Remaking of America* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001), 202.

⁵⁷ Dickson and Allen, *Bonus Army*, 209.

⁵⁸ David B. Ross, *Preparing for Ulysses: Politics and Veterans during World War II* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1969), 67-87.

⁵⁹ "VA History in Brief," http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/archives/docs/history_in_brief.pdf.

Roosevelt pursued educational benefits in 1942 by establishing the Armed Forces Committee on Post-War Educational Opportunities for Service Personnel (AFCPWEO). Brigadier General Frederick G. Osborn, who headed the AFCPWEO, supported Roosevelt's decision to offer education benefits for veterans transitioning into civilian life.⁶⁰ Roosevelt received another recommendation in 1943 from the National Resources Planning Board, which recommended education benefits for veterans.⁶¹ Roosevelt believed education answered two arguments previously presented by veterans seeking a handout: 1) it provided a way to catch up on lost time and lost money, and 2) it allowed veterans the opportunity to support themselves once discharged from service. Educational benefits did not hinder, but enhanced, veterans' lives once they returned from service. Roosevelt stated to Congress in 1943:

Every day that the war continues interrupts the schooling and training of more men and women, and deprives them of the education and skills which they would otherwise acquire for use in later life. Not only the individual welfare of our troops, but the welfare of the Nation itself, requires that we reverse this trend just as quickly as possible after the war. Vocational and educational opportunities for veterans should be of the widest range.⁶²

Roosevelt continued to offer educational training for returning veterans. For several months, he experienced acceptance and rejection over his plan to assist returning veterans. By the time the Service Members Readjustment Act passed, Congress had received over six hundred different bills offering veterans assistance at the end of the war.⁶³ Roosevelt's biggest supporter

⁶⁰ Ross, *Preparing for Ulysses*, 67-87.

⁶¹ Boulton, "Price on Freedom," 27.

⁶² Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Message to Congress on the Education of War Veterans," October 27, 1943, accessed November 4, 2014, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=16333&st=&st1=>.

⁶³ Keane, *Doughboys*, 208.

was the American Legion. If the American Legion had not advocated for WWII veterans, Roosevelt's plan might not have borne fruit. The American Legion, whose membership consisted of WWI veterans, remembered the struggle they endured for a bonus upon returning from war. On December 15, 1943, Harry Colmery, a WWI veteran and Past Legion National Commander, drafted the "Bill of Rights for G.I. Joe and G.I. Jane."⁶⁴ This document proposed that WWII veterans should receive unemployment benefits, low interest home loans, and educational or training benefits.⁶⁵ With the assistance of the American Legion and Colmery's draft, Congress passed the Service Members Readjustment Act. WWII veterans learned of the benefits prior to the war ending, a luxury not offered for WWI veterans. On June 22, 1944, Roosevelt extended the benefits to "members of our armed forces—for they have been compelled to make greater economic sacrifice and every other kind of sacrifice than the rest of us, and are entitled to definite action to help take care of their special problems."⁶⁶

As a token of appreciation to the millions of Americans who served during WWII, Congress, under the leadership of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, established the Service Members Readjustment Act.⁶⁷ Two distinctive outcomes resulted from this legislation. First, it kept veterans from rushing home to unemployment lines. While the economy was strong, the economy slowed down once the war ended. The political leaders' worried veterans would return

⁶⁴ Thomas A. Rumer, *The American Legion, 1919-1941* (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1989), 211.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶⁶ Franklin D. Roosevelt, *Franklin Roosevelt's Statement on Signing the G.I. Bill. June 22, 1944*, accessed June 29, 2014, <http://docs.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/odgist.html>.

⁶⁷ Doris Kearns Godwin, *No Ordinary Time* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994), 538.

home “from the battle line to the breadline.”⁶⁸ In order for the country to sustain economic stability, an unemployed veteran was unacceptable. To honor the veterans who served, and to promote a stabilized economy, veterans were encouraged to continue their educational training. For the first time in our country's history, the government sponsored higher education for all veterans, not just limited benefits for service members injured in the line of duty. The GI Bill kept veterans out of the food line and provided access to higher education. The legislation kept unemployment down, assisted veterans with higher education opportunities, and improved their lives. Political leaders working together to reward veterans planted seeds for higher learning for all Americans. The GI Bill succeeded in providing an opportunity for veterans to earn higher education. Nationwide college enrollments increased to higher levels never seen. Twenty years after the Service Members Readjustment Act was signed into law, President Lyndon B. Johnson stated the bill provided educational benefits for over “600,000 engineers and scientists, 360,000 school teachers, and 700,000 business and executive personnel.”⁶⁹ Clearly, the GI Bill transformed higher education. While the above figures identified occupations requiring a bachelor degree, over five million veterans utilized their GI Bill benefits for occupation or vocational training.⁷⁰ Unfortunately, Alabama’s vocational or technical training institutions were limited. In 1945, Alabama’s public vocational training consisted of the Alabama School of

⁶⁸ Keith W. Olson, *The G.I. Bill, the Veterans, and the Colleges*, (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1974), 23-24; Brint and Karbel, *Diverted Dream*, 68.

⁶⁹ Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, “Statement by the President on the 20th Anniversary of the G.I. Bill of Rights,” June 22, 1964, accessed November 11, 2014, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=26331&st=&st1=>.

⁷⁰ Suzanne Mettler, *Soldiers to Citizens: The G.I. Bill and the Making of the Greatest Generation* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 7.

Trades (AST) in Gadsden, Alabama, located in the northeast corner of the state, and the Decatur Trade School (DTS) in Decatur, Alabama, located in north Alabama. While the AST and DTS provided educational opportunities for northern and northeastern Alabamians, the state failed to provide access across the state.

For two years, Alabama failed to collect guaranteed tuition dollars available to WWII veterans eligible for the GI Bill. While the Alabama School of Trades and Decatur Trade School provided assistance, the schools could not serve the over 321,000 Alabamians who served during WWII.⁷¹ In order to serve veterans who participated in military service, educational facilities needed to be constructed. In 1947, George C. Wallace, a young Representative from Barbour County, sponsored a bill establishing four new publicly supported trade schools. Wallace's bill, known as the Regional and Vocational Trade School Act of 1947, provided each trade school an annual allocation of \$75,000 for operating expenses.⁷² The four new trade schools were a major milestone in two-year education for Alabama. The schools provided greatly widened access to technical education.

The GI Bill helped establish four new trade schools in Alabama and opened access for veterans to receive higher education. The federal government assisted veterans with higher education and planted the idea for the government to assist all capable citizens to attend institutions of higher learning. In 1946, President Harry S. Truman appointed twenty-eight members to the President's Commission on Higher Education. Their task consisted of reporting the status of higher educational needs of the country. The report, *Higher Education for American*

⁷¹ Flynt, *Alabama in the Twentieth Century*, 384.

⁷² Regional Vocational and Trade Schools Act, Alabama Code 1975 § 16-60-193 (1947).

Democracy, commonly referred to as the Truman Report, promoted the expansion of the junior college movement.

Higher Education for American Democracy

On July 13, 1946, President Harry Truman requested the twenty- eight members on the Presidents Commission on Higher Education to review “the functions of higher education in our democracy and the means by which they can best be performed.”⁷³ It was the first time a president viewed higher education as a national interest.⁷⁴ The Report focused on “two key areas for higher education: 1) improving college access and equity and 2) expanding the role of community colleges.”⁷⁵ Until the Truman Report released its recommendations, higher education concerns were viewed from the state level. At the time of the report’s release in December 1947, Alabama established the Alabama Vocational and Trade School Act, which created four new trade schools. Alabama had taken the first step to offer a state supported two-year technical system of education but had failed to meet the recommendation for every American to be “enabled and encouraged to carry his education, formal and informal, as far as his native capacities permit.”⁷⁶ In 1947-1948, Alabama did not support public junior colleges. Alabamians were denied an accessible and affordable liberal arts education.

⁷³ John R. Thelin, *A History of American Higher Education* (Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press), 268.

⁷⁴ *Ibid*, 268.

⁷⁵ Claire Krendl Gilbert and Donald E. Heller, “Access, Equity, and Community Colleges: The Truman Commission and Federal Higher Education Policy from 1947 to 2011,” *The Journal of Higher Education* 84, no. 3 (2013): 417-443.

⁷⁶ Brubacher and Rudy, *Higher Education*, 232-235.

The Truman Report called for increased enrollments in higher education. According to Brubacher and Rudy, the President's Commission noted that by 1960, 4,600,000 students should be enrolled in an institution of higher learning.⁷⁷ These 4,600,000 students included 2,500,000 freshman and sophomores, 1,500,000 junior and seniors, and 600,000 graduate students.⁷⁸ These figures, based off the Truman Report, estimated that "at least 49 percent of our population has the mental ability to complete 14 years of schooling," and "at least 32 percent of our population has the mental ability to complete an advanced liberal or specialized professional education."⁷⁹ In order for these numbers to be obtained, the commission recommended that more students enroll in community colleges.

The community college offered "at least 49 percent" of the population the opportunity to obtain two additional years above high school. Four-year universities and colleges struggled to meet the demands from returning WWII veterans whose tuition was paid by the GI Bill. Civilians seeking higher education experienced two challenges to going to college: tuition, including fees, and living expenses. The Presidents Commission on Higher Education understood the barriers of accessibility and recommended that community colleges be established by public school systems offering two years of education above the high school level at no cost to the student.⁸⁰ The Report placed the responsibilities of educating the masses of the nation in the hands of the community colleges. The two- year institutions received an

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

endorsement to meet the challenges of providing campus facilities, classroom space, reduced tuition rates, and open access for local communities. The Truman Report validated the community college movement.

The Truman Report identified the need for higher education, especially two grades above the senior level of high school, but failed to initiate any legislation to support its recommendations. President Truman initiated the report, but, due to “bad timing,” neither Congress nor Truman followed through with the Committee’s recommendations.⁸¹ Unfortunately, billions of dollars were spent on a foreign policy dedicated to stopping the spread of communism. Truman never asked Congress to provide federal funding to support the Committee’s recommendations for community colleges.⁸² However, the successful launch of the Soviet satellite Sputnik would change the disposition of the federal legislature to offer financial assistance for students attending college.

While President Truman advocated for public community colleges, Alabama neglected to follow the Truman Report’s recommendation. Nationwide community colleges expanded through state governments, private foundations, and individual colleges.⁸³ Fifteen years after the Truman Report in 1961, Alabama sponsored Northwest State Junior College—the first state-supported junior college. Alabama responded with publicly supported technical education, but failed to recognize the importance of an academic curriculum offered by a junior college.

⁸¹ Thelin, *History of American Higher Education*, 268.

⁸² *Ibid.*, 268-270.

⁸³ *Ibid.*

Civil Rights Movement

The Civil Rights Movement had its origins in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* case.⁸⁴ The Supreme Court ruling, administered under the Warren Court, began the slow process of federally supported integration of public schools throughout the nation. On May 14, 1954, Justice Earl Warren stated, “We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of ‘separate but equal’ has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal....”⁸⁵ The Supreme Court’s announcement outlawed state-sponsored segregation. In Alabama *Brown v Board of Education* would struggle to be realized because the case only outlawed state-supported segregation. Furthermore, the courts failed to establish a desegregation timeline for integration to be completed and had no way to determine how to certify an integrated school. On May 31, 1955, the Supreme Court announced that states would begin implementing integration with “all deliberate speed.”⁸⁶ Alabama citizens identified with Governor Persons, who acknowledged *Brown v. Board*, but believed that segregation was inevitable.⁸⁷ Unfortunately, the white citizens of Alabama responded by flocking to private schools and generally resisting the Supreme Court’s edict. Resistance was most visible at The University of Alabama, after it became the first southern institution of higher learning ordered to

⁸⁴ “United States Courts,” *History of Brown v. Board of Education*, accessed December 21, 2014, <http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/get-involved/federal-court-activities/brown-board-education-re-enactment/history.aspx>.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

⁸⁷ George E. Sims, *The Little Man’s Big Friend: James E. Folsom in Alabama Politics, 1946-1958* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1985), 136-138.

integrate.⁸⁸ Alabama famously initiated a resistance movement against the enrollment of Autherine Lucy at the state's flagship university.⁸⁹ For years, Alabamians failed to provide equal educational opportunities for African Americans. In the end, *Brown v. Board* motivated Alabama to increase access and funding to higher education.

Alabama provided minimal secondary education opportunities for African Americans, much less post-secondary educational opportunities. Until the passage of the Regional and Vocational Trade School Act in 1947, African Americans had limited access to educational opportunities. By 1947, Alabama funded Alabama Teachers College, (known as Alabama State University in Montgomery), a branch campus of Alabama State University in Mobile and Alabama A&M University in Huntsville. Access ranged from Southwest Alabama to Northern Alabama for African Americans seeking higher education. Private two-year colleges for African Americans relied on private support and donations from religious organizations.⁹⁰ Clearly, access was lacking for African Americans in Alabama.

Alabama had approved one trade school for African Americans under the Regional and Vocational Trade School Act in 1947.⁹¹ The creation of an African American trade school, Wenonah Trade School, established in 1948, followed the "separate but equal" ruling under the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* case. Alabama moved to establish Wenonah Trade School as the second

⁸⁸ E. Culpepper Clark, *The Schoolhouse Door: Segregation's Last Stand at the University of Alabama* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), xvii.

⁸⁹ *Ibid*, 71-80.

⁹⁰ Dustin Smith, "Century of Change," 9-17.

⁹¹ Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, May 14, 1948. Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL, 173.

trade school under the Regional and Vocational Trade School Act in 1947.⁹² As Dustin Smith noted, “Alabama chose to establish a stand-alone, segregated institution instead of integration.”⁹³ Alabama’s governmental and educational leaders mistakenly believed that as long as a trade school was provided for African Americans, then the federal government would not force integration. Alabama learned from other states that struggled with segregation. In order to maintain segregated schools, Alabama understood prior court decisions such as *Murry V. Maryland* (1933) and *Missouri ex rel Gaines v. Canada* (1938) to support the equal side of the separate versus equal principle by allowing for enrollments of black students if no “equal” learning institutions were available.⁹⁴ Unfortunately separate institutions of higher learning for African Americans continued until federal judges implemented a mandatory desegregation date for all schools by the beginning of the 1971-1972 school year.⁹⁵

⁹² “Trade Training Needs in Area to be Surveyed,” *The Tuscaloosa News*, February 5, 1949.

⁹³ Dustin Smith, “Century of Change,” 148.

⁹⁴ “United States Courts,” History of *Brown v. Board of Education*, accessed December 21, 2014, <http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/get-involved/federal-court-activities/brown-board-education-re-enactment/history.aspx>. *Murry v. Maryland* (1933) authorized the University of Maryland to admit Donald Gaines Murry. Murry had been denied access to the University of Maryland School of Law. His attorney, future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, argued and won the case that the university violated *Plessy v. Ferguson* because the law school was not “separate and equal.” Mr. Murry was admitted and graduated from the University of Maryland Law School. In *Missouri ex rel Gaines v. Canada* (1938) Lloyd Gaines was denied admission to the University of Missouri Law School. Missouri offered two solutions to maintain a segregated law school: to admit and build a law school for blacks or send Mr. Gaines to a neighboring state to attend law school. The Supreme Court ruled against the University of Missouri Law School. Since Missouri did not provide a law school for African Americans, Gaines was denied equal treatment under the law. Alabama realized if it did not provide equal educational opportunities, federal courts would enforce integration.

⁹⁵ “Trade Schools Ordered Desegregated,” *The Gadsden Times*, August 16, 1970.

As a result of the 1947 Regional and Vocational Trade School Act, African Americans received one trade school. Alabama political leaders believed they provided public “separate but equal” education due to the two public four-year universities: Alabama State University in Montgomery (which also had a branch campus in Mobile) and Alabama A&M University in Huntsville. Alabama politicians failed to provide any additional higher education facilities for African Americans. Alabamians believed if they provided the opportunity for African Americans, then integration would be ignored.

Although Alabama legislators provided limited higher education opportunities for African Americans in Alabama, more scholarship funds were available to send African Americans out of state to attend an institution of higher learning. According to Rex Thomas of *The Tuscaloosa News*, Alabama increased its funding for “Alabama’s own direct out-of- state scholarship program” from \$75,000 annual allotment in 1950 to \$129,750 in 1951.⁹⁶ This scholarship program allowed African Americans to enroll in coursework not available to them in Alabama. By 1951, 717 African Americans had used the scholarship program for higher education.⁹⁷ Alabama continued to offer the program after *Brown v. Board of Education* outlawed segregation in 1954 and after The University of Alabama was integrated on June 11, 1963. The State Department of Education stated in *The Tuscaloosa News* article, “State Money Helps Negroes Attend Top Schools ‘Outside’ ... Student aid will be considered for Negro residents of Alabama who desire to study and can qualify for a graduate, professional or technical field which is offered at the University of Alabama or at Auburn University but is not

⁹⁶ Rex Thomas, “State Starts Record Spending for Negro Schools,” *The Tuscaloosa News*, September 24, 1951.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

offered at the Alabama State College or at the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College or at Tuskegee Institute.”⁹⁸ Alabama leaders realized the program was no longer worth the taxpayers’ expense. While the legislature provided \$68,395.00 for the program in 1965, “Alabama officials admit—though not for the record—the program is on its way out now that the white universities of the state have been integrated.”⁹⁹ While Alabama did not encourage integration, it had no problem paying tuition for African Americans enrolled in out-of-state institutions of higher learning.

Once *Brown v. Board* passed, however, Alabama responded the next year by passing Act N. 402, which created three new trade schools on September 9, 1955.¹⁰⁰ Three trade schools established under the 1955 Alabama legislature provided two trade schools for African Americans and one for whites. Unfortunately, Alabama faced financial difficulties and failed to open the trade schools until the 1960s. Due to lack of funding, these trade schools did not open under Gov. Jim Folsom’s leadership. The schools opened under the leadership of Governor John Patterson. On September 4, 1962, Patterson State Trade School, named in honor of Governor John Patterson, opened its doors offering technical education to “whites”.¹⁰¹ The last two state supported trade schools offered African Americans access to two-year education. Huntsville

⁹⁸ “State Money Helps Negroes Attend Top Schools ‘Outside’, *The Tuscaloosa News*, December 5, 1965.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁰ *Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives*, reg. sess., 1955, 940-941.

¹⁰¹ H. Council Trenholm State Technical College, *2013-2014 College Catalog and Student Handbook*, (2013), 6.

State Vocational Technical College, located in Huntsville and Carver State Technical College, located in Mobile, provided African Americans an opportunity for instruction in a technical field.

On September 2, 1962 Huntsville State Vocational Technical College opened its doors to African Americans. Huntsville received a trade school, but only to prolong federal integration. Because African Americans could not attend the Tennessee Valley School of Trades, now known as Calhoun Community College, African Americans were denied access to higher education. Alabama struggled to accept integration and continued to provide separate institutions for Alabama citizens. Political leaders were not the only leaders who denied African Americans the opportunity to obtain higher education. According to an article in *The Florence Times*, local industry Lincoln Mills would lease a facility for an all-white technical college only if Huntsville received an additional technical college for Negroes.¹⁰² Huntsville received a trade school for Negroes, but only in the hope that the federal government would not force integration in Alabama. If Alabama had failed to establish a trade school for Negroes in Huntsville, then the Tennessee Valley School of Trades could have been integrated to provide African Americans technical education. On November 28, 1961, S.C. O’Neil was named the Director of Huntsville State Vocational Technical College.¹⁰³ By 1966, Huntsville State Vocational Technical School became J.F. Drake State Technical Trade School to honor Dr. Joseph Fanning Drake, who served as president for over thirty-five years at Alabama A&M University.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰² “Seek Land for Negro Trade School,” *The Florence Times*, June, 15, 1960.

¹⁰³ Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, November 28, 1961. Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL, 485.

¹⁰⁴ J.F. Drake State Technical College, *College Catalog and Student Handbook* (2011), I-19.

The second trade school established for African Americans was Carver State Technical College in Mobile, Alabama. Two African American students, Ernest Leon Koen and Frank E. Lee, sued for admission to the “white” trade school, Southwest State Technical College.¹⁰⁵ Koen and Lee filed a federal lawsuit, *Ernest Leon Koen and Frank E. Lee vs. H. Clay Knight, Frank R. Stewart and State Board of Education of Alabama*, after two years of applying to the all “white” Southwest State Technical College in Mobile.¹⁰⁶ These two African American students, along with three other African Americans applied for admission in 1959 and 1960.¹⁰⁷ For two years their applications were collected by Southwest State Technical College Director H. Clay Knight and forwarded to the State Education Department in Montgomery for admission.¹⁰⁸ Koen and Lee were denied admission because of their race. In Koen and Lee’s lawsuit, the applicants “charged that a segregation policy enforced at the school was unconstitutional and violated equal protection of the laws guaranteed all citizens by the 14th amendment of the Constitution.”¹⁰⁹ Alabama leaders responded to the lawsuit. Governor John Patterson informed the State Board of Education, “that Negroes need a trade school in the Mobile area and that facilities should be

¹⁰⁵ “Negroes Ask School Entry—Want to Enroll in All-White Classes,” *The Florence Times*, August 3, 1960.

¹⁰⁶ *Ernest Leon Koen and Frank E. Lee vs. H. Clay Knight, Frank R. Stewart and State Board of Education of Alabama*, 1960. Koen and Lee were denied admission to Southwest State Technical College in 1959 and 1960. They sued Southwest State Technical College Director H. Clay Knight, State Superintendent of Education Frank R. Stewart and the Alabama State Board of Education for admittance.

¹⁰⁷ “Negroes Try To Enter Alabama Trade School,” *Rome News Tribune*, April 3, 1959.

¹⁰⁸ “Negroes Ask School Entry-Want to Enroll in All-White Classes,” *The Florence Times*, August 3, 1960.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

provided for them as soon as possible.”¹¹⁰ Governor Patterson did not support integration of the trade schools. He threatened to close all schools if forced to integrate. Patterson stated, “Citizens had rather not be in the school business than operate an integrated school.”¹¹¹ Alabama’s response to integration included another segregated trade school. By December 1960, city and county commissioners provided \$50,000 for the site of the school. The Alabama legislature allocated \$439,000 for the construction of a Negro Trade School in Mobile.¹¹²

The State Board of Education realized the urgency of providing technical education for African Americans. Federal Courts had already addressed segregation as illegal in *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. However, the federal courts failed to set the time period for integration to be implemented. The South believed that Chief Justice Earl Warren’s recommendation in *Brown v. Board of Education II*, 1955, for forced integration at “full deliberate speed” would take a generation to implement. Alabama’s politicians believed that, as long as African Americans received equal educational opportunities and states made progress towards integration, then some segregation would continue. Alabama’s politicians failed to acknowledge the courts position on integration. If states did not move towards integration, the federal courts would speed up the desegregation process. Alabama’s legislators worried about federal courts integrating Southwest State Technical College if African Americans did not have an opportunity to gain a technical education. If states resisted desegregation or did not volunteer to implement integration, then federal courts and ultimately, the federal government would get

¹¹⁰ “Negro School Urged for Mobile,” *The Tuscaloosa News*, March 27, 1960.

¹¹¹ “School-Closing Threat Stands,” *The Gadsden Times*, August 17, 1960.

¹¹² “In Mobile: Negro Leader Proposes Mixed Trade Schools,” *The Florence Times*, December 14, 1960.

involved and integrate school systems.¹¹³ Most white citizens of Alabama hoped integration was a generation away and did not want to integrate Southwest State Technical College. Instead, Alabama legislators continued segregation by establishing Carver State Technical College for African Americans on January 1, 1961.¹¹⁴ Mr. A.L. Green was hired as the first director of Carver State Technical College.¹¹⁵

By 1962, Alabama established two additional trade schools devoted to providing two years of technical education for African Americans. Eight years after *Brown v. Board of Education*, Alabama still moved very slowly to integrate education. It would take Governor George C. Wallace's defiance of federally enforced integration to increase the speed. Still, the Civil Rights Movement raised enough consciousness to create additional two-year institutions for African Americans. Although providing separate institutions slowed the pace of integration, more two-year institutions were established in Alabama.

Baby Boomers

The fourth national phenomenon to transform the junior college movement was a population boom that created a generation known as the baby boomers. The baby boomer

¹¹³ "Trade Schools Ordered Desegregated," *The Gadsden Times*, August 16, 1970; "Duplicate Courses Being Eliminated," *The Tuscaloosa News*, October 21, 1970. Alabama was forced to integrate all school systems including the state system of trade schools and junior colleges in 1971. Four years after *Lee vs. Macon* (1967), the statewide desegregation case, Circuit Judge Richard Rives and District Judges Frank Johnson and H.H. Grooms forced the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority to integrate in 90 days. Their ruling focused on the segregated white and Negro trade schools in Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Montgomery, and Mobile.

¹¹⁴ "Our History," Bishop State Community College, accessed December 21, 2014, <http://www.bscc.cc.al.us/about-us/our-history.html>.

¹¹⁵ "Negro College Head Ordered to Take Leave," *The Florence Times*, November 28, 1961.

generation included 72.4 million Americans born between 1946 and 1964.¹¹⁶ Due to the Great Depression and World War II, many Americans postponed getting married, and parents delayed starting families.¹¹⁷ The two decades prior to World War II witnessed declines in the birth rate. According to Colby and Ortman, by 1933, the birthrate declined from 30 to 18.4 births for every one thousand citizens.¹¹⁸ The low birth rate continued through the 1930s and 1940s as Americans survived the Great Depression. The unemployment rate peaked in 1933 with over 24.9% of the population unemployed.¹¹⁹ With almost 25% of the nation unemployed, children posed another expense during a time of financial difficulties. Once WWII ended, Americans increased the size of their families.

The baby boom began in 1946. The birthrate increased from 18.4 births in 1933 to over 24 births for every one thousand citizens in 1946, one year after World War II ended.¹²⁰ The immediate increase in the birth rate failed to alarm national and state leaders. National patterns indicated that it was a temporary condition. At the conclusion of WWI (1919-1921), birth rates increased for only two years before decreasing to pre-war levels.¹²¹ WWII birthrates witnessed an increase for the first two years (1946-1947) and declined in 1948 through 1950. National

¹¹⁶ Sandra L. Colby and Jennifer M. Ortman, "The Baby Boom Cohort in the United States: 2012 to 2060. Population Estimates and Projections," accessed July 29, 2014, <http://www.census.gov/prod/2014pubs/p25-1141.pdf>.

¹¹⁷ *The Reference Shelf: Aging in America* (Ipswich, Massachusetts: H. W. Wilson, 2014), ix.

¹¹⁸ *Ibid*, 2.

¹¹⁹ *The Great Depression Facts*, accessed July 13, 2014, from <http://www.shmoop.com/great-depression/statistics.html>.

¹²⁰ Colby and Ortman, "The Baby Boom Cohort," 2.

¹²¹ *Ibid*.

leaders did not recognize that birthrates in 1946 and 1947 increased more than in the previous two decades.¹²² They believed that the boom ended when the declines occurred between 1948 and 1950. However, between 1951 and 1961, birth rates declined only once, in 1958, but still maintained over 4 million births until 1964. This increase in babies increased the United States population, but also initiated huge social and economic challenges.¹²³ Education would forever change due to the baby boomers. As Landon Jones observed, “it is not, I think, overstating the case to say that the arrival of the baby boom was an educational disaster for the United States.”¹²⁴ The nation was not prepared for the increase numbers of students brought on by the baby boomers. The nation struggled to accommodate the needed increased classroom space for the baby boomers. While primary and social schools experienced the first wave of increased enrollments from baby boomers, colleges would not witness an increase until the first class enrolled into institutions of higher learning in 1964. Elementary and high schools’ increased enrollments concerned higher education leaders concerning the impact of baby boomers.

During the 1950s, the nation received increased enrollments in elementary and high schools. College leaders identified the need for expansion as baby boomers increased enrollments in primary and secondary school systems. Alabama’s school leaders saw the expansion coming but lacked facilities and space to educate the population. The political desires in Alabama to support a public junior college system shifted in 1957 by establishing the Alabama Education Commission (AEC). The AEC was tasked with identifying problems in

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ *Great Depression Facts*, <http://www.shmoop.com/great-depression/statistics.html>.

¹²⁴ Landon Jones, *Great Expectations: America and the Baby Boom Generation* (New York: Coward, McCann, & Geoghegan, 1980), 51.

Alabama's educational system.¹²⁵ Alabama realized increased enrollments from the baby boomers would cause overcrowding problems as they prepared to enroll in higher education.

The first generation of baby boomers entered college by 1964. The baby boomers posed an enormous enrollment challenge to the nation's colleges and universities. The first baby boomers could often not afford to move away and attend college; they could not afford tuition, room and board, and books. Thus, the idea of access through the community college system had an easy and affordable appeal. More federal support was on the horizon, galvanized by the Soviet launch of its satellite Sputnik. America was losing the Cold War and needed more accessible and lower cost post-secondary schooling. Unfortunately, higher education in Alabama was not geographically accessible or affordable to all its citizens. By 1957, Alabama shifted its focus to public junior colleges. The state could no longer ignore the problem of overcrowded classrooms brought on by the baby boomers.

Sputnik

The fifth national event that contributed to the expansion of junior colleges occurred when the Soviets launched the world's first satellite in 1957. During the 1950s, Americans feared the spread of communism. Within three years of defeating dictatorships throughout Europe, the Soviet Union emerged as an imperial threat to America. Americans feared the spread of communism witnessed in Asia and elsewhere. For example, in 1946, China erupted into a civil war between democracy-supported forces led by Chank Kai-Sheck and communist forces led by Mao ZeDong. Once the war ended, China emerged as a communist country and is still today. On June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea, igniting the Korean War. For three years, the United States fought and supported democratic South Korea against the Communist forces of the

¹²⁵ "Probe Started on Commission," *The Anniston Star*, December 13, 1957.

Soviet Union and China. The war ended when the countries agreed to a cease-fire and borders, defined at the thirty-eighth parallel, were identified for both countries. For Americans, two wars ended with Communist forces gaining and maintaining territories in Asia. The United States government could no longer allow communist forces to control Asia. Americans reasoned if communism gained countries in Asia, then momentum could be gained for its growth elsewhere. The United States responded with a foreign policy towards containment. Communism had to be contained.

While Americans witnessed the fall of China to communist forces and North and South Korea divided at the 38th parallel, Senator Joseph McCarthy accused various individuals of being communist agents working in the federal government. Senator McCarthy's Red Scare tactics had their effect on the government and the population. Americans not only felt threatened by the Soviet Union, they were scared.

The launch of Sputnik in 1957 made it clear that America lacked superiority in military strength and technology. The Soviet Union had gained an upper hand in monitoring and spying on the United States. As Jack Anderson reported, "the alarm is based on the fact that Sputnik is of such size that it could become an electronic spy on every military installation in the United States."¹²⁶ Fears increased on November 3, 1957, when the Soviets launched Sputnik II, which sent a dog into orbit. The two launches symbolized to Americans the Soviet Union's desire to control and dominate space. Americans worried the Soviets could and would launch an "advanced intercontinental ballistic missile armed with a hydrogen warhead."¹²⁷ This, in turn,

¹²⁶ Jack Anderson, "Missile Feud Flares Merry G-Round Tells of Recent Briefing," *The Anniston Star*, November 8, 1957.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

would become a crisis for the schools, as they would stand accused of failing to properly educate the masses in math and science. The national educational focus would shift toward math and science. With the assistance of Alabama Senator Lister Hill and Representative Carl Elliot, Congress passed the National Defense Act of 1958, designed to assist students in the fields of math and science.¹²⁸

While the nation worried about the Soviet Union's advanced space program developments, Alabama educational leaders realized that the state was also suffering from an "educational crisis."¹²⁹ The legislature realized that Alabama lacked access to higher education and acknowledged the poor conditions of primary and secondary schools. To increase higher education accessibility and decrease the poor conditions of a deteriorated state education system, politicians and educational leaders argued that additional funds were needed to improve the quality of schooling in Alabama. Alabama leaders scheduled a meeting for October 15, 1957 (eleven days after Sputnik) to address educational problems throughout the state.

In August 1957, the Alabama Legislature approved the Lackey-Edwards Bill, which established the Alabama Education Commission.¹³⁰ The Commission "conducted a survey of the educational system and to recommend improvements" to Alabama's educational system.¹³¹ The Alabama Education Commission consisted of twenty-one members who represented different interests of the state. The governor appointed three members in the field of education, the Senate

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ Anne Permaloff and Carl Grafton Pemberton, *The More Things change....* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1995), 92-95.

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ Ibid.

appointed four members, the House appointed five members, and each member of the nine congressional district in Alabama appointed a member to the committee.¹³² Twenty-one members formed the six committees of the Alabama Education Commission. The six committees included the Instructional Program Committee, Personnel Committee, Buildings and Transportation Committee, Organization and Administration Committee, Financing Education Committee, and Higher Education committee, all focused on improving education in Alabama.¹³³

Government and educational leaders in Alabama began investigating junior colleges because of the Alabama Education Commission. The Commission established the Junior College Subcommittee, which consisted of eight members prepared to report on the increased need for access to higher education. The following members served on the Junior College Subcommittee: Charles F. Zukoski, Jr. (Chair), Reese Arnis, Dr. Frazier Banks, Dr. Cranford Burns, Dr. H.E. Cammack, Virgil McCain, Alexander Nunn, and J.M. Van Houten.¹³⁴

¹³² Ibid, 92-93.

¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ “Schedule for Study of Education Needs Established by Education Commission”, *The Tuscaloosa News*, December 12, 1957; Alabama Education Commission, *Report to the Committee on Higher Education* (Montgomery: Alabama Education Association, 1958), 166.

Table 1.1. Alabama Education Commission, 1958.¹³⁵

Members	Committee	City
Representative Joe Dawkins	Chair of Alabama Education Commission	Montgomery
Senator Joseph W. Smith	Chair of Instructional Program Committee	Phenix City
H. B. Larkins	Member of Instructional Program Committee	Elba
Mrs. George W. Yarbrough	Member of Instructional Program Committee	Wedowee
Representative Hugh Kaul	Member of Instructional Program Committee	Birmingham
Dr. David Mullins	Member of Instructional Program Committee	Auburn
Senator E.O. Eddins	Member of Instructional Program Committee	Demopolis
Earl C. Pippin	Chair of Personnel Committee	Montgomery
Senator Lynchmore Cantrell	Member of Personnel Committee	Tuscumbia
Representative Hugh Merrill	Member of Personnel Committee	Anniston
Thomas D. Russell	Member of Personnel Committee	Alexander City
Dr. J.F. Drake	Member of Personnel Committee	Huntsville
McDowell Lee	Member of Personnel Committee	Clio
Hayse Tucker	Chair, Buildings and Transportation Committee	Tuscaloosa
G.T. Walker	Member, Buildings and Transportation Committee	Kennedy
Howell T. Heflin	Member, Buildings and Transportation Committee	Tuscumbia
C.B. Gilmore	Member, Buildings and Transportation Committee	Grove Hill
Mervyn H. Sterne	Member, Buildings and Transportation Committee	Birmingham
Hayse Tucker	Member, Buildings and Transportation Committee	Tuscaloosa
Virgis Ashworth	Chair, Organization and Admin. Committee	Centreville

Table 1.1. (continued)

Mervyn H. Sterne	Chair of the Finance Education Committee	Birmingham
McDowell Lee	Member of Finance Education Committee	Clio
Hayse Tucker	Member of Finance Education Committee	Tuscaloosa
Representative Hugh Kaul	Member of Finance Education Committee	Birmingham
Hugh Comer	Member of Finance Education Committee	Sylacauga
Representative Hugh Merrill	Member of Finance Education Committee	Tuscumbia
Senator E.O. Eddins	Member of Finance Education Committee	Demopolis
Virgis Ashworth	Member of Finance Education Committee	Centreville
C.B. Gillmore	Chair of the Higher Education Committee	Grove Hill
Dr. David Mullins	Member of Higher Education Committee	Auburn
Dr. J.F. Drake	Member of Higher Education Committee	Huntsville
Thomas D. Russell	Member of Higher Education Committee	Alexander City
Senator Joseph W. Smith	Member of Higher Education Committee	Phenix City
H.B. Larkins	Member of Higher Education Committee	Elba

¹³⁵ Alabama Education Commission. *Report to the Committee on Higher Education*. (Montgomery: Alabama Education Association, 1958).

Table 1.1. (continued)

Name	Subcommittee	City
I.	Characteristics of a Desirable Program of Higher Education	
Dr. John R. McLure	Dean, College of Education University of Alabama	Tuscaloosa
Dr. Truman Pierce	Dean, School of Education Auburn University	Auburn
II.	Coordination of Higher Education Subcommittee	
Sen T. Herman Vann	Chair, Coordination of Higher Education Subcommittee	Huntsville
Dr. E.B. Norton	Vice Chair, Coordination of Higher Education Subcommittee	Florence
J. Jefferson Bennett	Member of Coordination of Higher Education Subcommittee	Tuscaloosa
Dr. David W. Mullins	Member of Coordination of Higher Education Subcommittee	Auburn
III.	Junior and Community Colleges Subcommittee	
Charles F. Zukoski, Jr.	Chair, Junior and Community College Subcommittee	Birmingham
Reese Arnis	Member of Junior and Community College Subcommittee	Huntsville
Dr. Frazier Banks	Member of Junior and Community College Subcommittee	Birmingham
Dr. H.E. Cammack	Member of Junior and Community College Subcommittee	Montgomery
Virgil McCain	Member, Junior and Community College Subcommittee	Boaz
Alexander Nunn	Member of Junior and Community College Subcommittee	Birmingham
J.M. Van Houten	Member of Junior and Community College Subcommittee	Birmingham
Dr. Cranford Burns	Member of Junior and Community College Subcommittee	Mobile
IV.	Quality in Education Subcommittee	
Dr. Howard M. Phillips	Chair, Quality in Education Subcommittee	Montevallo
Winton Blount	Member of Quality in Education Subcommittee	Montgomery
Dr. Houston Cole	Member of Quality in Education Subcommittee	Jacksonville
Dr. Henry K. Stanford	Member of Quality in Education Subcommittee	Birmingham

Table 1.1. (continued)

Dr. A.S. Turnipseed	Member of Quality in Education Subcommittee	Mobile
V.	Teacher Training Subcommittee	
Alexander Nunn	Chair, Teacher Training Subcommittee	Birmingham
Dr. C.B. Smith	Member of Teacher Training Subcommittee	Troy
Dr. Howard Harian	Member of Teacher Training Subcommittee	Birmingham
Dr. Morrison McCall	Member of Teacher Training Subcommittee	Montgomery
H.B. Larkins	Member of Teacher Training Subcommittee	Decatur

These eight members outlined the role of public community colleges. The Subcommittee did not agree on improving access with “additional facilities,” by “expanding the programs of extension division,” or by encouraging enrollments in “private junior colleges.”¹³⁶ As the Report to the Committee on Higher Education stated,

We are doubtful, however, that the private junior colleges are likely to find the funds necessary for any substantial increase in their enrollment. We doubt, also, that expansion of the extensive program will sufficiently fill the gap, though the efficient administration and well planned and effective dispersal of its centers provide a vehicle for higher education in the local communities which some additional communities may seek to obtain. Everything considered, we believe that in any event we in Alabama should initiate and make available to other communities preferring it a sound community college program administered through local boards under the over-all supervision of the State Department of Education....¹³⁷

The Junior College Subcommittee outlined six recommendations to move a community college program forward. First, Alabama needed to design a detailed community college program.¹³⁸ The program would provide access to “areas not being reached adequately by

¹³⁶ Alabama Education Commission, *Report to the Committee on Higher Education*, 166.

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ Ibid, 169.

existing facilities” so that “youth may receive appropriate education near their homes for two years beyond high school.”¹³⁹ Alabama leaders realized that locational access to higher education was the biggest problem high school seniors faced. By 1960, out of fifty states, Alabama ranked last in enrolling college students.¹⁴⁰ Other than the cost of higher education, locational access proved to be the biggest challenge students and families faced with enrolling in college. The second recommendation from the Junior College Subcommittee requested the Alabama State Department of Education to identify community resources for a two- year colleges, to estimate community enrollments, to determine the educational programs desired by the communities, to measure the support from the local communities, and discern the commuting distances for would-be students in the surrounding areas.¹⁴¹ According to Raymond Young, local communities needed to be involved in determining if they wanted a two- year college and if they were willing to be taxed to support the institution.¹⁴² The Junior College Subcommittee (JCSC) identified community support as the key ingredient for a successful community college.

The third recommendation focused on commuting distances. Community college enrollments were dependent on commuters. As Raymond J. Young noted, “. . .people would drive about as far to obtain a community college education as they would to purchase a durable good,

¹³⁹ Ibid, 169-170.

¹⁴⁰ Flynt, *Alabama in the Twentieth Century*, 240.

¹⁴¹ Alabama Education Commission, *Report to the Committee on Higher Education*, 166-170.

¹⁴² Raymond J. Young “From Persuasion to Accommodation in Public Two-Year College Development,” *Community College Journal of Research and Practice* 26 (2002): 562.

such as a washing machine, refrigerator, or automobile.”¹⁴³ A community college program needed to be accessible within thirty to fifty miles in order to be successful in Alabama.

The Junior College Subcommittee’s fourth recommendation addressed the Alabama legislature’s having the authority to create community colleges.¹⁴⁴ The Committee recommended that the legislature have the authority to establish a community college if the counties were financially able to support the college, set the tax rate, establish tuition and fee rates, and authorize the purchase of bonds.¹⁴⁵ The JCSC also outlined the legislature’s authority to determine the location and cost to attend the two-year college. It was clear that, in order for a system of community colleges to operate, the local community would need to provide financial and material support.

The fifth recommendation by the Junior College Subcommittee suggested “expert consulting services” for the establishment of community colleges.¹⁴⁶ This recommendation stressed the importance of planning a community college to align with community needs. The JCSC noted that the first two years of college are highly important. This is the time when choices are often made for vocational or professional objectives, when habits of study and conduct are influential, and lifelong companionships are forged.¹⁴⁷ Clearly, the JCSC realized the importance

¹⁴³ Stephen Katsinas, “Remembering Raymond J. Young and the Grass-Roots Development of Community Colleges from 1950-1976,” *Community College Review* 35, no. 4(2008): 349.

¹⁴⁴ Alabama Education Commission *Report to the Committee on Higher Education*, 170-171.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

of planning a system. If the state legislature failed to plan a community college system, then students risked not being able to complete their programs.

Finally, the Junior College Subcommittee recommended that each community college strive to be accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).¹⁴⁸ Each community college receiving accreditation would strengthen its quality this way. As the JCSC stated,

In facing up to the hard facts of life in Alabama in the years from 1958 to 1970, the community college program described is worthy of the most serious consideration of the Alabama Education Commission, of the Alabama Legislature and of the people of our state. It will strengthen our democracy, it will develop a better educated citizenship, it will be a means of keeping our trained youth at home, it will extend local responsibility for education, it will better enable us to meet the demands of this industrial age. It is a tremendous new idea in the American and Southern education, capable of bringing educational opportunity to all our citizens.¹⁴⁹

The Alabama Legislature sponsored the Alabama Education Commission to provide assistance to improving education. Ironically, none of the recommendations was activated. The legislature clearly focused on building a community college system with the help of local Alabama communities. Alabama lacked the support of a junior college system in 1958, but the citizens of Enterprise, Alabama, wanted to establish a private junior college, led by a local newspaper editor, Mr. Roy Shoffner who championed the effort.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid, 174.



Figure 1.1. Roy Shoffner, editor of *The Enterprise Ledger*.¹⁵⁰

¹⁵⁰ Roy Shoffner, *Dateline: Enterprise* (Tallahassee: Rose Printing Company, 1987), II.

CHAPTER 2

ENTERPRISE STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE: AN EDITOR'S DREAM

On August 29, 1957, *The Enterprise Ledger*, the local city newspaper published Mr. Roy Shoffner's article, "Why not a Junior College?"¹⁵¹ Shoffner's article began a movement to establish a junior college in Enterprise. Shoffner's article called for a private institution of higher education in Enterprise offering the freshman and sophomore years of education to students in the Wiregrass Area. The Wiregrass Area consisted of Houston, Henry, Dale, Coffee, Geneva, and Covington Counties, all located in southeast Alabama.

Shoffner received little support for his idea, but he did plant the seeds to establish a junior college in Enterprise. The idea for a private junior college was not new to Alabama's localities. According to Dr. Dustin Smith, Sacred Heart Junior College, Selma University, Snead Junior College, and Southern Union Junior College were private junior colleges supported by local citizens and the local church.¹⁵² Shoffner realized that "Alabama provided one public junior college and eight private colleges with 2,169 enrolled."¹⁵³ Alabama was five years away from

¹⁵¹ Roy Shoffner, "Why Not a Junior College," *The Enterprise Ledger*, April 3, 1957. Roy Shoffner served as Editor for *The Enterprise Ledger*. He was involved in the Lions Club and Enterprise City Council, He is recognized as the first citizen desiring a junior college in Enterprise, Alabama.

¹⁵² Dustin Smith, "A Century of Change: The History of Two-Year Education in the State of Alabama, 1866-1963" (Ed.D. diss., University of Alabama, 2012), 182.

¹⁵³ Roy Shoffner, "Needed: A Junior College," *The Enterprise Ledger*. July 3, 1958.

establishing a public system of two- year colleges. If the Wiregrass Area desired a junior college, its existence depended on private support from the local communities.

Shoffner continued to support and advocate for higher education. By 1957, the middle schools were feeling the effects of the coming wave of baby boomers. Enterprise High School would soon experience dramatically increased enrollments, like other schools in the nation. According to Cohen and Brawer, junior colleges gained momentum as a result of the baby boomer movement and the basic lack of higher educational opportunities.¹⁵⁴ According to the official *Enterprise Junior College Proposal* to the Alabama State Department of Education, the City of Enterprise reported enrollments for three years outlining increased enrollments starting with the 10th grade class (the future class of 1965).¹⁵⁵ The proposal map displayed the total number of prospective underclassmen from Coffee, Dale, Geneva, and parts of Covington, Henry and Houston Counties, totaling 2,289 sophomores.¹⁵⁶

Shoffner realized seniors and future students attending Enterprise High School and local high schools did not consider college because of the distance and expense associated with traveling to a four-year regional college or university. During this time in Enterprise history, the closest four-year school was Troy State College, located 35 miles north of Enterprise in Troy, Alabama (Pike County). The closest two-year college was George C. Wallace State Vocational Trade School, located 30 miles east of Enterprise in Dothan, Alabama (Houston County).

¹⁵⁴ Arthur M. Cohen and Florence B. Brawer, *The American Community College*, 5th Edition (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008), 7.

¹⁵⁵ *Enterprise Junior College Proposal* (Enterprise, 1963), 8.

¹⁵⁶ Ibid. The Enterprise Junior College Proposal focused on the first year (1964-1965) baby boomers impacted enrollments in the Wiregrass Area high schools. 10th Graders from the Wiregrass Area high schools represented the biggest increase in secondary enrollments.

Enterprise residents faced a crisis many Alabamians experienced; they lacked easy access to higher education. Shoffner advocated, “If Enterprise had a junior college, offering the first two years of a college education right here, without the necessity of leaving home, many more students would be moving into the field of higher education and the educational level of our area would increase correspondingly.”¹⁵⁷ Local high school graduates had three options: go straight to the workforce, join the military, or go to college. Two out of three choices prompted students to leave the area and potentially leave it permanently, which meant that Enterprise natives would eventually pay taxes to another county and raise families in another state. This was unacceptable to Shoffner who continued advocating for a junior college by stating, “If we are to have a junior college, we believe it will have to be a private institution—not state supported—but the demand is growing, present colleges are overcrowded.”¹⁵⁸ Lack of higher education opportunities not only denied Enterprise citizens an education, but limited their ability to plant roots in their hometown. Shoffner’s article, “Why Not a Junior College,” documented the first local initiative advocating a junior college for Enterprise.¹⁵⁹

Shoffner continued to wave the flag for higher education in Enterprise, Alabama. On July 3, 1958, he wrote “Needed: A Junior College” in *The Enterprise Ledger*.¹⁶⁰ He stated,

Alabama has one public junior college and eight private junior college with a total enrollment of 2169. Other bordering states have the following: Georgia, nine public, nine private, enrollment, 11,021; Florida, seven public, five private, enrollment 9,813; Mississippi, 15 public, seven private, enrollment, 9888; Tennessee, one public, seven

¹⁵⁷ Roy Shoffner, *Dateline: Enterprise* (Tallahassee: Rose Printing Company, 1987), 77.

¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

¹⁵⁹ Roy Shoffner, “Why Not A Junior College.”

¹⁶⁰ Ibid.

private, enrollment,2580. We know there is a need for an institution of this kind in Enterprise. We hope that someone with the necessary education and initiative will investigate the possibility and start the ball rolling. We are convinced that the undertaking would be a success and add much to the future of Enterprise.¹⁶¹

Shoffner's article asked that if some southern cities provided two years of junior college education, why couldn't Enterprise? His personal advocacy for a junior college gained support from local citizens and groups, including Mr. R.E. Kennedy, an unexpected Lions Club visitor.

Shoffner was persistent in promoting a junior college for Enterprise. On December 23, 1958, he published "The Closing College Door,"¹⁶² a piece that he wrote after Mr. R.E. Kennedy, Director of Public Relations for Troy State College, visited the local Enterprise Lions Club.¹⁶³ Kennedy argued that a flood of college applicants would make four-year schools more difficult to be admitted to.

Kennedy's projections pointed toward limited access. One remedy to increase access included extending high school for two more years, Shoffner rejected this idea by stating, "We cannot see the wisdom of the high school extension other than to delay the date of graduation and therefore the date college entrance by two years."¹⁶⁴ By extending the high school years, tax payers would have paid an additional two years for educating high school students. Providing two more years of high school and funding two more years of education would only increase

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

¹⁶² Roy Shoffner, "The Closing College Door," *The Enterprise Ledger*, December 23, 1958.

¹⁶³ Shoffner, *Dateline: Enterprise*, 78.

¹⁶⁴ Ibid, 2.

expenses to educate Alabamians. In a state that experienced proration six out of the previous seven years (1955-1962), providing an additional two years of high school seemed unwise.¹⁶⁵

After Kennedy finished his presentation to the local Lions Club, he answered questions from local members. He focused on the low completion rates of college attenders and the significant enrollment increases that were anticipated. Kennedy's final comments outlined the growth Troy State College had experienced from veterans coming home from WWII and increased enrollments from baby boomers. According to Shoffner, "Kennedy revealed that Troy State had an enrollment of about 300 in pre-world War II days and that for the present term there are 1450 enrolled. Next year the enrollment will reach 1600. Already a dormitory designed for 215 girls houses 275 in its first year of use."¹⁶⁶ Kennedy illustrated the growth Troy State College had experienced since WWII, but to Shoffner the implication was clear: "How much better it would be if the money needed for expanding a college the size of Troy or larger with dormitories, could be used instead to build and equip classrooms and actual teaching facilities while the student remained at home."¹⁶⁷

Shoffner pondered why the taxpayer continued to spend money to build bigger universities when the extra money could be used to keep students at home attending a local junior college. In many cases, if students did not attend local junior colleges, they missed the

¹⁶⁵ Stephen G Katsinas, "George C. Wallace and the Founding of Alabama's Two-Year Colleges," *The Journal of Higher Education* 65, no. 4 (1994): 450-451. Proration is cutting support for education and other state services to ensure Alabama maintains a balanced budget. If the State of Alabama fails to collect enough revenue to cover the state budget, the Governor must pro-rate the budget to ensure a balanced budget.

¹⁶⁶ Shoffner, "The Closing College Door."

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

opportunity to attend college.¹⁶⁸ He concluded by stating, “Unless steps are taken soon, higher education will become similar to higher education in Europe...available to the select few, not to the masses.”¹⁶⁹ His article reminded citizens of the importance of a junior college for Enterprise.

Shoffner continued to advocate for a junior college throughout 1959 with articles such as “Junior College Is Still Basic Educational Need.”¹⁷⁰ For months, any discussion with educational leaders received the same response: “... you needed to take care of what you had first before expanding into additional areas.”¹⁷¹ This included making efforts to improve high school education. The secondary schools of Alabama struggled to meet the standards set forth by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS). It was 1958 before Enterprise High School received accreditation by SACS. Once Enterprise High School received SACS approval, it would “place the school in the upper third of high schools in the state since less than one-third of the high schools of Alabama are now accredited by the association.”¹⁷²

Because Enterprise and over 100 other schools in Alabama, lacked approval from the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS), educational and political leaders realized that wide improvements were needed.¹⁷³ Improving education ranked second on Governor John

¹⁶⁸ Cohen and Brawer, *American Community College*, 16-17.

¹⁶⁹ Shoffner, “The Closing Door.”

¹⁷⁰ Roy Shoffner, “Junior College Is Still Basic Educational Need,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 3, 1959.

¹⁷¹ Shoffner, *Dateline: Enterprise*, 78.

¹⁷² *Ibid*, 3.

¹⁷³ Samuel L. Webb and Margaret E. Armbruster, *Alabama Governors A Political History of the State*. (Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 2001), 213.

Patterson's list of accomplishments that he sought to attain during his term as governor (1959-1963).¹⁷⁴ Only maintaining segregation ranked higher. In 1959, Governor Patterson inherited an education system that ranked last among the fifty states. As he campaigned for governor, he witnessed school facilities in significant disrepair—with holes in the floor, without indoor plumbing, and without heating units.¹⁷⁵ Patterson realized funding needed to increase in order to improve schooling in Alabama. Facility improvements were estimated at \$340 million dollars to repair the poorly built schools in Alabama.¹⁷⁶ Furthermore, Alabama had the lowest number of high school graduates of any state. Most schools were not accredited by SACS, teachers received salaries lower than national averages, and the facilities of the school were fundamentally lacking. Local citizens in Enterprise City Schools focused on their K-12 first; they sought SACS accreditation, and aimed to lift salaries for teachers. The junior college would have to wait.

Mr. Shoffner, continued, however, to advocate for higher education in Enterprise. Even as he faced criticism for supporting the junior college over the secondary school, Shoffner would see a junior college open in the Northwestern region of the state: Northwest Alabama State Junior College, the first public junior college supported by the state.¹⁷⁷ His dream to establish a private junior college stalled due to a lack of local and state support. His dream needed a boost. Two key events during 1962 provided the boost Mr. Shoffner needed to see his dream turn into reality.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid.

¹⁷⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷⁷ The Alabama Department of Education, *Alabama's Junior Colleges: Your First Choice*. (1968), 6-7.

State and Local Boost

Shoffner's dream found no funding, no facilities, and minimal local and state support for higher education. At the state level, the problems of the schools were pervasive. Over one hundred schools, nearly two-thirds of all schools, in Alabama faced losing SACS accreditation due to lack of financial support.¹⁷⁸ Two state events in 1962, however provided, a needed boost for the junior college. The first came from the Alabama Legislature. On July 16, 1962, the legislature passed Act No. 124, which allowed counties with a population between 65,000 and 95,000 to establish a junior college.¹⁷⁹ While Enterprise, located in Coffee County, lacked the population required to establish a junior college, the general bill reflected the transition Alabama legislators were making toward establishing junior colleges throughout the state. According to the *History of Alabama State Junior Colleges*, "the State Legislature did authorize the establishment of three junior or community colleges in certain areas of Alabama and did appropriate public funds to private junior colleges in the State."¹⁸⁰ Act No.124 passed due to Representatives Bill Nichols and Ashley L. Camp, Jr desires to establish the first two-years of a general liberal arts degree in their home district in Talladega County.¹⁸¹ This bill encouraged local communities, like Enterprise, seeking a junior college. If Alabama's legislature approved a junior college to serve a county population of 65,000-95,000, then potentially the legislators

¹⁷⁸ "Work on School Accreditation Program to Continue This Year," *The Enterprise Ledger*, July 3, 1958.

¹⁷⁹ Alabama State Department of Education, *Alabama's Junior Colleges*, 6; *The History of Alabama State Junior Colleges* (1975), 1.

¹⁸⁰ *The History of Alabama State Junior Colleges* (Alabama?: 1975), 1.

¹⁸¹ J. Catherine Randall, "A Kudzuing of Colleges: The Proliferation and Balkanization of Higher Education in Alabama" (Ph.D. diss., University of Alabama, 2001), 33-36.

might support smaller counties seeking a junior college. The key for smaller counties to receive legislative approval depended on a legislator advocating for junior colleges for smaller populations.

A second boost came in October 1962. Mr. William E. Snuggs, former principal of Coffee County High School, addressed the need for a junior college at the local Quarterback Club meeting.¹⁸² While addressing local supporters and alumni, Snuggs made his case for a junior college. Though he had retired earlier in 1962, he recalled the support Enterprise and Coffee County provided him while high school principal. He felt the community provided the needed support to establish a junior college.¹⁸³ His speech caught the attention of the community. According to Mrs. Tera Averett, “He was so excited that he could hardly eat dinner.”¹⁸⁴ Prior to this meeting, the idea of a junior college met little support, much less excitement. According to Shoffner, “Greater interest was stirred by Snuggs than I had heard before.”¹⁸⁵ Shoffner echoed his idea in the last local newspaper published in 1962, with this article, “Junior College Destined For the Wiregrass.”¹⁸⁶ With the passage of Act No. 124, Enterprise citizens realized state leaders were shifting their views and financial support towards junior colleges. The emotional desires for

¹⁸² Roy Shoffner, *The First 110 Years 1882-1992* (Tallahassee: Rose Printing Company), 333-334.

¹⁸³ Fred S. Watson *Coffee Grounds: A History of Coffee County, Alabama 1841-1970*. (Anniston: Higginbotham, 1970), 202-205.

¹⁸⁴ Addie Middlebrooks, “Opening of First College Classes Here Brings Dream of Many Years to Life,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 28, 1965.

¹⁸⁵ Shoffner, *Dateline Enterprise*, 79.

¹⁸⁶ Roy Shoffner “Junior College Destined for The Wiregrass.” *The Enterprise Ledger*, December 27, 1962.

a junior college increased in 1962. In 1963, the dream received the needed support to become a reality.

The Altrusa Club

1963 was greeted with strong enthusiasm for a junior college. On January 2, 1963, the Altrusa Club, a local women's civilian organization, invited Shoffner to speak at their January 3, 1963 meeting.¹⁸⁷ Shoffner had earned a reputation "as a man who had made a study of junior colleges and who for years had been hammering out editorials pointing out the need for a college in Enterprise."¹⁸⁸ At the Altrusa Club meeting, he presented the need for a junior college, the economic advantages of a junior college, and the opportunity a junior college provided for students.¹⁸⁹ He concluded his presentation by asking the community to organize a citizens committee to explore the resources a junior college needed in order to succeed.¹⁹⁰ Shoffner was surprised to learn that two women, Mrs. Clark Edwards and Mrs. Tera Averett, would lead the call for a junior college when the Altrusa Club passed a motion "in favor of a junior college in Enterprise."¹⁹¹ According to Ms. Tera Averett, who witnessed Shoffner's motivational speech, "Those of us who heard him picked up on the excitement."¹⁹² This meeting occurred four months

¹⁸⁷ Addie Middlebrooks, "Opening of First College Classes." According to the International Altrusa Club website, www.altrusa.org, The Altrusa Club is an international non-profit community service organization dedicated to literacy and local needs.

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

¹⁸⁹ Shoffner, *Dateline: Enterprise*, 80-81.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid, 80-81.

¹⁹¹ Ibid.

¹⁹² Middlebrooks, "Opening of First College Classes," 3.

before Governor Wallace successfully pushed for a junior college system on May 3, 1963. Through local support and local leadership, the groundwork for higher education was beginning to be laid in Enterprise. As Ms. Averett stated, “the first official step was made by an organized group to initiate a project which has grown day by day and month by month, the influence of which will be felt for centuries to come.”¹⁹³ The Altrusa Club started the campaign for a junior college; six weeks later the Lions Club joined the local civic club to support a junior college.

The local Lions Club hosted a membership discussion dedicated to the topic of the junior college on February 18, 1963, which was led by Fred Taylor, Mayor M.N. Brown, O.I. Cunningham, Miss Beryl Quinn, Roy Shoffner and Fred Donaldson.¹⁹⁴ During the Lions Club meeting, it was announced the Altrusa Club received a donation of forty acres of land; four local businessmen, Clayton Metcalf, Roy Ellis, Barney Marsh, and Martin Moates, followed suit and also pledged donations to the Junior College Committee.¹⁹⁵ These men donated money to ensure local students, including their children, had an opportunity and access to attend a junior college.¹⁹⁶

¹⁹³ Ibid, 3.

¹⁹⁴ Shoffner, *Dateline: Enterprise*, 80-81.

¹⁹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁹⁶ “ESJC Became Reality Just Twenty Years Ago,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, May 16, 1983; “Enterprise State Junior College 1965-1975. Enterprise Planned for Junior College Before the State Acted in 1963,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 29, 1975.



Figure 2.1. Early supporters of and Enterprise junior college.
Pictured from left to right: Barney Marsh, Clayton Metcalf, Martin Moates, and Roy Ellis.¹⁹⁷

Both civic clubs, the Altrusa Club and the Lions Club, paved the way for the community-wide support for a junior college. Realizing the interest and investment the citizens of Enterprise pledged, the Chamber of Commerce announced Fred Taylor as the Chairman of the Junior College Interim Committee.¹⁹⁸ His plan focused on “the depth of interest in Enterprise in favor of the establishment of a Junior College here.”¹⁹⁹ As local leaders collected donations and local

¹⁹⁷ “Enterprise State Junior College 1965-1975. Enterprise Planned for Junior College Before The State Acted in 1963,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 29, 1975.

¹⁹⁸ Shoffner, *Dateline: Enterprise*, 81.

¹⁹⁹ “Junior College Proposal May Hinge On Response at Community Meet,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, March 12, 1963.

civic clubs made presentations on establishing a junior college, community support increased. Taylor acknowledged local support and wasted little time in planning for a junior college.

Taylor appointed additional community members to the Junior College Interim Committee (JCIC). Founding members included Ben Byrd Henderson, Lew Sessions, M. N. Brown on Finance; Royce Snellgrove, Oscar Zeanah, Roy Shoffner on Curriculum and Publicity; Fred D. Donaldson, Clayton Metcalf on Quarters and Facilities; Fred D. Donaldson, James Walker on Faculty; James Walker, Tera Averett, M. N. Brown, Dr. Wallace Miller on State Contracts.²⁰⁰ The committee leaders looked for an experienced, respected speaker to advocate for a junior college in Enterprise. Mr. William E. Snuggs, who had increased local support at the local quarterback club meeting in October 1962, returned to Enterprise on March 12, 1963, to serve this role. Enterprise needed a junior college, he stated, because of “the geographical location...between large areas of white population without close proximity to a college or university” and because “many high school graduates and adults who need the opportunity to move forward-many have not had that opportunity as reasons why Enterprise needed a junior college.”²⁰¹

Snuggs was aware of private junior colleges and one state supported junior college in the state.²⁰² He was also aware the state had attempted to establish other public junior colleges that failed to open. The Alabama Legislators successfully established Northwest State Junior College

²⁰⁰ “Enterprise State Junior College 1965-1975,” *Enterprise Ledger*.

²⁰¹ “Fred Taylor Takes Chairmanship of Committee to Establish College,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, March 21, 1963.

²⁰² *Ibid*.

in 1961, but failed to establish another junior college that had been approved in 1961 for Jackson and DeKalb Counties. According to *The History of Alabama State Junior Colleges*, “On September 15, 1961, Act No. 151 authorized a junior college to be located in Jackson or DeKalb Counties. The establishment of this college, however, did not materialize prior to the initiation of the overall State program.”²⁰³ The state program also failed to charter a junior college for Talladega County in 1962.²⁰⁴ The main reason provided for these failures was lack of funding. Mr. Benjamin Abb Forrester, who served as Superintendent of Jackson County Schools, Assistant State Superintendent of Education, and later served as Enterprise State Community College’s first president, recalled in 1964 that “we could not help them finance a junior college when we could not meet a payroll with the people we had employed already.”²⁰⁵ Lack of adequate funding stood in the way of many junior college initiatives in Alabama.

Enterprise’s Junior College Interim Committee began the process to determine how Enterprise’s private junior college could collect needed revenue to operate. Snuggs believed that “The economy of [the Enterprise Area] will support a Junior College. With Fort Rucker here with the expanding industrial development of the area; the growing payrolls, the developing agriculture this area is able to establish and support a Junior College.”²⁰⁶ JCIC focused on three main funding concerns: facilities, faculty, and curriculum. And there was also the question of where the College would be located? The JCIC provided details on various options. The junior

²⁰³ *History of Alabama State Junior Colleges*, 1.

²⁰⁴ Dustin Smith “A Century of Change,” 6.

²⁰⁵ Ben Forrester, “Developments and Directions in Junior College Education in Alabama” (speech, Alabama Association of School Administrators, Auburn, AL, April 27, 1964).

²⁰⁶ “Fred Taylor Takes Chairmanship,” *Enterprise Ledger*, March 21, 1963.

college could rent space, add classrooms to Enterprise High School, or buy land and renovate the old Coppinville High School, which served as the segregated high school.²⁰⁷ Finding facilities for Enterprise Junior College proved to be a problem. Many junior colleges started before the concrete was poured, and before a faculty was named or a president appointed.²⁰⁸

Renting a building or renovating an existing school were options for the new junior college, but the question was who would teach at the junior college was also complicated. According to Cohen and Brawer, many junior college faculty and administrators started their careers in secondary school systems.²⁰⁹ The Junior College Interim Committee reported the local area contained qualified faculty to teach.²¹⁰ Hiring qualified teachers never surfaced as a problem for establishing a junior college in Enterprise. Curriculum issues also never surfaced as problematic. The curriculum focused on meeting freshman needs and on providing a terminal curriculum program in secretarial and business science.²¹¹

Once his presentation concluded, at the city-wide meeting, Snuggs allowed time for questions and discussion. Once the session ended, Mrs. Gerstel Allen moved to establish a junior college, Mrs. Tera Averett second the motion and a unanimous vote was taken to establish a

²⁰⁷ Ibid. The Old Coppinville High School was the segregated high school for African Americans in Enterprise prior to integration in 1969.

²⁰⁸ B. Lamar Johnson, *Starting a Community Junior College* (Washington, D.C.: American Association of Junior Colleges, 1964), 1-5.

²⁰⁹ Cohen and Brawer, *American Community College*, 5th ed., 85.

²¹⁰ "Fred Taylor Takes Chairmanship," *Enterprise Ledger*, March 21, 1963.

²¹¹ Ibid.

private junior college. A unanimous vote sent a strong message, but it did not guarantee a junior college for Enterprise.

The idea of a local civic club gaining resources to establish a private junior college attracted local city leaders, including Fred Taylor, the president of the Chamber of Commerce. In order to estimate the chances of success in establishing a private junior college, Mr. Taylor appointed the following men to serve as the official city committee charged with investigating the reality of opening a private junior college: O.I. Cunningham, Manager of the Chamber of Commerce; Mr. M.N. "Jug" Brown, Mayor of Enterprise; James A. Walker; Fred Donaldson; Clayton Metcalf; Roy Shoffner; Royce Snellgrove; and Oscar Zeanah.²¹² The committee worked to determine the feasibility of operating a private junior college. While the city received assistance from citizens who promised to sell land below market value and local school systems pledged high school facilities and equipment, finances proved to be a real problem. According to local business leader, Mr. Clayton Metcalf, "I became most convinced that we must have some substantial outside financial assistance if we are going to establish this school."²¹³ The community desired a junior college, but in order for Enterprise to have a junior college, it would need outside resources to be successful.²¹⁴ Local support increased, but outside financial assistance proved to be the missing resource the committee needed to establish a junior college. Alabama communities had experienced failed private junior college projects in the past.²¹⁵ It

²¹² Ibid.

²¹³ "Enterprise State Junior College 1965-1975" *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 29, 1975.

²¹⁴ Ibid.

²¹⁵ Dustin Smith "A Century of Change," 6; *History of Alabama State Junior Colleges*, 1.

appeared Enterprise would become the next private junior college project denied due to lack of funds.

In May, Shoffner's dream turned into a nightmare. Members of the Junior College Committee (JCC) announced no funding could be found to support a private junior college. The citizens of Enterprise were disappointed. But their disappointment would not last. The state had recommended a committee for a statewide system of junior colleges and technical trade schools.²¹⁶ As Roy Shoffner noted, "It was almost as if he [Governor Wallace] had been watching what was taking place in Enterprise."²¹⁷ While the local citizens felt deprived of a private junior college, the state moved to establish a junior college and trade school system for Alabama.

*George C. Wallace: Father of Alabama's Two Year Colleges.*²¹⁸

As indicated, Enterprise failed to establish a private junior college. However, all the hard work and efforts by the Junior College Committee would not be lost, as Gov. George C. Wallace called a special session of the Alabama legislature in 1963, and fought and passed legislation to create a system of junior, technical and community colleges.²¹⁹ When Wallace took office in

²¹⁶ Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, April 4, 1963, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL.

²¹⁷ Shoffner, *Dateline Enterprise*, 81.

²¹⁸ Charles L. Payne, "Alabama," in *Community Colleges in the United States: Forty-Nine State Systems*, ed. Ben E. Fountain and Terrance A. Tollefson (Washington, D.C.: American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, 1989), 2-7.

²¹⁹George C. Wallace, "The People's Colleges: Best Buy on the Education Market," *Community College Review* 1, no. 14 (1973):14.

January 1963, ten public trade schools existed. Four had been established by Representative Wallace under the Alabama Regional Trade and Vocational School Act of 1947, and one public junior college was established in 1961.²²⁰ By the time Wallace ended his first term as governor, from 1963 to 1967, fourteen junior colleges had been established or brought under state control.²²¹ The fifth junior college established would be Enterprise State Community College.²²² While some research has focused on Wallace's success in establishing the community college system, minimal historical documentation exists on the actual community, junior, and technical colleges.²²³ When Wallace began to run for governor in 1962, he aimed to improve education by offering affordable and accessible two-year schools. He succeeded when The Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority Act was signed on May 3, 1963.²²⁴

The Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority was created as a political favor to Speaker Pro-Tem Rankin Fite, a political ally of Wallace. Fite wanted a technical school in his district and suggested to Wallace the idea to create five new junior and technical colleges.²²⁵ Fite presented three acts, Nos. 92, 93, and 94, to the state legislature and created the Alabama Trade School and Authority Act.²²⁶ These three acts created a system that established, controlled and

²²⁰ Katsinas, "George C. Wallace," 447-451.

²²¹ The Alabama Department of Education, *Alabama's Junior Colleges Your First Choice*. (1968), 6-7.

²²² Alabama State Board of Education, *Minutes*, October 9, 1963, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL.

²²³ Katsinas, "George C. Wallace," 447-448.

²²⁴ *Ibid*, 460.

²²⁵ Katsinas, "George C. Wallace," 454-457.

²²⁶ Payne, "Alabama," 1-2.

governed the two-year colleges. Public Act 92 provided funding for the system by financing a \$15,000,000 bond underwritten by creating a two-cent tax on beer.²²⁷ Public Act 93 mandated that the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority manage the revenue earned from the sale of beer to monitor construction of the two-year schools.²²⁸ Public Act 94 established the governance of the system by placing control in the hands of the Alabama State Board of Education.²²⁹

When the three bills passed as the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority Act, no one imagined the system having more than ten colleges. Within the first year of its creation, however, the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority doubled the number of institutions under its purview from five new junior and trade schools to eleven junior and twenty-four technical schools.²³⁰ When Fite first proposed the creation of a community college system, he only recommended ten new colleges (envisioned were five new trade schools and five new junior colleges, with Fite's idea being that, if enough could be authorized, he would have the power to steer one of them to Marion County). The passed legislation did not create ten new schools. Instead, Act No. 94 gave the nine-member Alabama State Board of Education the authority to determine the number of new colleges to be created. Critics from secondary

²²⁷ Katsinas, "George C. Wallace," 447-472: Alabama Department of Education, *Alabama's Junior Colleges Your First Choice* (1968), 6-7.

²²⁸ Katsinas, "George C. Wallace," 447-472; Wayne Flynt, *Alabama in the 20th Century* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2004), 237-241; The Alabama Department of Education, *Alabama's Junior Colleges*, 6-7.

²²⁹ Katsinas, "George C. Wallace," 447-472, Flynt, *Alabama in the 20th Century*, 237-241. ; Alabama Department of Education, *Alabama's Junior Colleges*, 6-7.

²³⁰ Katsinas, "George C. Wallace," 448-449.

education institutions and four-year universities felt that the citizens of Alabama could not financially support ten new colleges and wanted the state board of education to determine the number of community colleges the state needed. According to Permaloff and Grafton, “They altered the legislation to remove the reference to ten schools and gave the state board of education the power to decide on the appropriate number of two year institutions and the responsibility for operating all two year institutions.”²³¹ When the new legislation passed with revised amendments, it placed the number of colleges into the hands of Wallace’s allies on the school board.

²³¹ Anne Permaloff and Carl Grafton, *Political Power in Alabama The More Things Change...* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1995), 178.

Table 2.1. Alabama State Board of Education members, 1963.²³²

- Governor George C. Wallace (President and Chairman of the Board, Ex-Officio Member)
- Dr. Austin R. Meadows (State Superintendent of Education- Ex-Officio Member)
- Dr. James D. Nettles
- Mr. J. Albritton,
- Mr. J.P. Faulk, Jr.
- Mr. Fred Merrill
- Mr. W.M. Beck
- Mr. Victor Poole
- Mr. W.C. Davis
- Mr. Harold C. Martin
- Mr. Cecil Word

Gov. Wallace succeeded in his mission to establish a “system of junior, community, and trade colleges based on the notion that educational opportunities should be available within easy commuting distance of every Alabama student.”²³³ The Alabama Legislature passed legislation to create two-year colleges, but Wallace needed support to handle the demands of operating these institutions. He received assistance when the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority was established.

²³² Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, June 4, 1963, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL.

²³³ William Warren Rogers et al. *Alabama: The History of a Deep South State* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1994), 572.

The Authority was comprised of Gov. George C. Wallace; Austin Meadows, State Superintendent of Education; and Seymore Trammell, Director of Finance.²³⁴ In order to be considered for a junior college, local communities needed to provide land to the state. During these tough fiscal times, Alabama politicians depended on local communities to release ownership of land. By signing over ownership, local communities acknowledged that they had raised the necessary funds. Once the land was purchased, the land was forfeited to the ATSJCA. The donated land reduced the overall expenses for the state.

Act No. 94 allowed the Alabama State Board of Education to select the location of new colleges, while communities selected sites in the hope of receiving a two-year college. The announcement of a junior college system removed the local pressure to financially support a private junior college and sparked competition among counties competing for one of the five announced junior colleges. While Enterprise's Junior College Committee leaders failed to establish a private junior college, the groundwork was laid to establish a private junior college.

Let the Competition Begin

On May 3, 1963, the legislature approved Acts 92, 93, and 94. This legislation shifted Enterprise efforts away from opening a private junior college and toward obtaining a state supported junior college. The failed efforts of the people of Enterprise to initiate a private junior college provided them with valuable knowledge of the resources needed to establish a junior college.

Not everybody supported the legislative initiatives to create five new junior colleges. Four-year universities, such as Auburn University and the University of Alabama, did not

²³⁴ Flynt, *Alabama in the 20th Century*, 241.

support the system because it competed with them for freshman enrollments numbers.²³⁵

Alabama State Superintendent Dr. Austin Meadows did not support the system because it reduced monies designated for K-12 education. Dr. Meadows, in fact, expected cuts to his budget caused by the establishment of a junior college system. In the State Board of Education Minutes, dated April 15, 1963, Wallace informed Dr. Meadows that a committee had to be formed to review potential sites for junior colleges in Alabama.²³⁶ Dr. Meadows honored Gov. Wallace's request and appointed nine members to the Alabama State Department of Education Junior College Committee. The potential junior college sites fell under the leadership of Mr. Benjamin Abb Forrester, Alabama's Assistant State Superintendent of Education and Chair of the Alabama State Board of Education's Junior College Committee.

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Benjamin Abb Forrester

By June 4, 1963, one month after the system was established on May 3, 1963, Dr. Meadows named Mr. Forrester Chairman of the Alabama State Board of Education Junior College Committee (ASBEJCC).²³⁷ His committee was composed of LeRoy Brown, H. R. Collins, J. H. Hadley, George Layton, W. Morrison McCall, Theron Montgomery, and Truman Pierce.²³⁸ These men were tasked with selecting five sites for the newly established Alabama

²³⁵ Ben Forrester, "Developments and Directions in Junior College Education in Alabama" (speech, Alabama Association of School Administrators, Auburn, AL, April 27, 1964).

²³⁶ Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, April 15, 1963, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL.

²³⁷ Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, June 4, 1963, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL.

²³⁸ Ibid.

junior colleges.²³⁹ According to Forrester, the committee was “hindered by lack of time and certain necessary resources” in performing its charge.²⁴⁰ Throughout the selection process, the committee reviewed proposals, met with local community leaders and eventually determined five areas.

Table 2.2. Junior College Committee, Alabama State Board of Education, 1963.²⁴¹

Name:	Position:
Mr. Benjamin Abb Forrester, Chair	Alabama Assistant State Superintendent of Education
Dr. LeRoy Brown	Superintendent Anniston City Schools
Mr. H.R. Collins	Principal Goshen High School
Dr. J.H. Hadley	Professor, College of Education at the University of Alabama
Dr. George Layton	Director, Division of Administration and Finance State Department of Education
Dr. W. Morrison McCall	Director, Division of Elementary Education State Department of Education
Dr. Theron Montgomery	Dean, Jacksonville State College
Dr. Truman M. Pierce	Dean, School of Education Auburn University

²³⁹ Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, October 1, 1963, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL.

²⁴⁰ Ibid.

²⁴¹ Ibid.



Figure 2.2. Map of original sites selected by the Junior College Committee, 1963.

October 1, 1963

RECOMMENDATIONS OF JUNIOR COLLEGE COMMITTEE

The Committee charged with the responsibility of recommending five areas for the location of proposed Junior colleges, even though hindered by lack of time and certain necessary resources, feels that it has been able to give reasonable consideration to information available including much valuable material presented by a large number of Alabama communities. It will be understood that in locating five such schools in a state as large as Alabama many factors must be taken into consideration, including existing educational facilities both public and private.

Prior to giving any consideration to matters of location, the Committee agreed on certain needs which it felt could be met by a Junior college program. These include need for a two-year course in general education, a possible need for a program of one or more years of vocational-technical education, basic programs for those students who may wish to transfer to a senior college, and need for various programs of adult education.

In reaching its decision, the Committee gave careful consideration to the number of potential students, accessibility of locations within each proposed area to students, the evidence of local interest, the generally recognized need for large numbers of students for work beyond the high school, and the apparent willingness and ability of certain communities within these areas to provide more adequate educational opportunities.

In all areas recommended, two or more adequate sites have been identified and offered by the various communities. The Committee is convinced that excellent sites with utilities accessible to such sites are available and that the State Board of Education will encounter no difficulty in this connection.

Based on statements made above and the Committee's interpretation of Acts 92, 93, and 94 passed by the Second Special Session of the Alabama Legislature during 1951, the Committee hereby recommends for the consideration of the Alabama State Board of Education the five areas described below and further identified by the attached map. (The order of the listing does not constitute any sort of preference or priority in the thinking of the Committee.)

- Area #1. Composed of Blount, Madison, Morgan, Marshall, and Dallas Counties, and that part of Jackson County north and west of the Tennessee River.
- Area #2. Composed of Jefferson, Walker, Shelby, St. Clair, and Elbert Counties.
- Area #3. Composed of Talladega, Clay, Tallapoosa, Blount, and Coosa Counties.
- Area #4. Composed of Coffee, Dale, Henry, Franklin, Geneva, and Livingston Counties.
- Area #5. Composed of Baldwin, Escambia, Chocoma, Mobile, Washington, Clarke, and Monroe Counties.

Figure 2.3. Recommendation of the Junior College Committee, October 1, 1963.

The Committee recommends that before there is any further extension of post-secondary education in Alabama through the establishment of additional institutions, a comprehensive state-wide study be made to determine the needs for such institutions.

The members of the Committee wish to express appreciation to the State Board of Education for the confidence expressed in them in connection with this highly important assignment. The Committee also expresses its appreciation to Superintendent Meadows and members of his staff for their excellent cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

LeRoy Brown

LeRoy Brown

H. R. Collins

H. R. Collins

J. H. Hadley

J. H. Hadley

George L. Layton

George L. Layton

W. Morrison McCall

W. Morrison McCall

Theron Montgomery

Theron Montgomery

Truman H. Pierce

Truman H. Pierce

B. A. Forrester

B. A. Forrester, Chairman

Figure 2.3 (continued)

Enterprise submitted a proposal outlining the need for a junior college in the southeastern area. According to a letter submitted by Enterprise Chamber of Commerce President, Fred Taylor,

Reviewing population figures in the counties of Southeast Alabama we note in the primary coverage area population of about 165,000. We would gain some student load from a fringe area up to 5 miles which would comprise a total of about 200,000 population. Enrollment in tenth grade classes during the past year in the primary coverage area for a junior college if located in our community would be about 2,250....²⁴²

Enterprise's local Junior College Committee continued to notify Forrester and the Alabama State Board of Education Junior College Committee of promised pledges from the local banks, Enterprise Banking Company and The Citizens Bank. According to a letter by Mr. Ben Henderson President of Enterprise Banking Company, "For years we have counseled with and assisted financially those who sought college training. Although we have no formal Educational Loan Department in the bank, we have done extensive lending for this purpose over the years of our existence."²⁴³ The Citizens Bank in Enterprise announced its financial support of a junior college through Mr. D. F. Reaves, President. According to Reeves, in a personal letter to Mr. Forrester, "This bank has in the past, and will continue to grant educational loans to deserving students, both on an individual basis, and through the United Student Aid Funds."²⁴⁴ Two local banks thus pledged financial support for a junior college in Southeast Alabama.

²⁴² Fred Taylor, letter to Mr. Ben A. Forrester Chairman, State Junior College Committee, August 14, 1963, *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama*, 1.

²⁴³ Ben Henderson, personal letter to Mr. B.A. Forrester, State Junior College Committee, August 13, 1963, *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama*, 23.

²⁴⁴ D. F. Reaves, letter to Mr. Ben A. Forrester Chairman, State Junior College Committee, August 15, 1963, *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama*, 24.

Community support was widespread throughout the Wiregrass Region of the state. While Enterprise competed against other cities for a junior college, other cities rallied for a junior college in their hometowns. Even if a competing city did not win a junior college, the city still supported a junior college in Enterprise because it ensured higher education opportunities in the area. In a personal letter dated, August 15, 1963, Mr. Henry B. Steagall expressed his desires by stating, “As you know, I would support an effort to locate one of the new Junior Colleges in my own county of Dale; however, in the event Dale County should not be considered for the location of a Junior College for any reason, then in that event, I would like to recommend and urge that favorable consideration be given to the location of one of the Junior Colleges in Enterprise.”²⁴⁵ Steagall was not the only citizen who supported Enterprise if his hometown was denied a junior college. Mr. Sam Sawyer, member of Sawyer Candy Company, requested a junior college for Elba, Alabama, but insisted “If it (junior college) is not located in my vicinity, I favor Enterprise as a location, as it would be accessible to a large part of this section of the State.”²⁴⁶ The strong support for Southeastern Alabama appealed to the Alabama State Board of Education Junior College Committee, which received thirty-three statewide proposals for a junior college.²⁴⁷

²⁴⁵ Henry B. Steagall, II, letter to Mr. Ben A. Forrester Chairman, State Junior College Committee, August 15, 1963, *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama*, 33.

²⁴⁶ Sam Sawyer, letter to Mr. Ben A. Forrester Chairman, State Junior College Committee, August 14, 1963, *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama*, 34.

²⁴⁷ “Board to Consider New College Sites,” *The Dothan Eagle*, October 8, 1963.

Enterprise Chamber of Commerce



BOLL WEEVIL MONUMENT

THE ONLY MONUMENT IN THE WORLD GLORIFYING A PEST - NOW IN THE PEANUT CENTER OF THE WORLD

Enterprise, Alabama
August 14, 1963

Mr. Ben A. Forrester
Chairman, State Junior College Committee
State Department of Education
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forrester:

Officers and board members of the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce met recently with the Junior College Committee and pledged full support in efforts toward getting one of the State's junior colleges located at Enterprise. They further pledged diligence toward implimenting support of other organizations and business firms toward the same purpose.

Reviewing population figures in the counties of Southeast Alabama we note in the primary coverage area a population of about 165,000. We would gain some student load from a fringe area up to 50 miles which would comprise a total of about 200,000 population. Enrollment in tenth grade classes during the past year in the primary coverage area for a junior college if located in our community would be about 2,250, and the enclosed county map shows distribution of this student load by counties. We feel that if classes in academic subjects, secretarial science and accounting were offered a large enrollment of adults would be obtained and this would ultimately add greatly to the level of education and to the economy of the area.

Evidence of a strong support for a junior college in this area by financial institutions, churches, industries and other business firms is shown by copies of letters enclosed. We find a broad base of interest of our citizenry in offering scholarships to students needing such aid if enrolled in a junior college in this area. It would be our purpose to nurture this interest for a still broader participation. Many letters from leading citizens from other Southeast Alabama towns indicate a strong support from other communities for a junior college at Enterprise.

We feel that we have been signally successful in obtaining site locations that will be ideally located for a state junior college. Our city council and mayor offer the city's cooperation by furnishing water lines, sewage lines, gas lines. Alabama Power Co. electric service is also available.

We await your favorable consideration of Enterprise for one of the State junior colleges.

Yours truly,

THE ENTERPRISE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Fred Taylor
Fred Taylor, President

© SOUTH ALABAMA'S FASTEST GROWING CITY ©

Figure 2.4. Letter from Fred Taylor to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 14, 1963.²⁴⁸

²⁴⁸ Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 1.

Enterprise Banking Company

INCORPORATED

CAPITAL, SURPLUS & PROFITS \$800,000.00

ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA

BEN B. HENDERSON, PRESIDENT

August 13, 1963

Mr. B. A. Forrester, Chairman
Junior College Committee
c/o State Department of Education
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forrester:

For several years the citizens of Enterprise have been desiring a Junior College for this area. Evidences of the need grow every year, and as we have become aware of this need, there have been editorials in our local newspaper as well as many informal and formal discussions as a result. It appears to me that Enterprise is in a state of readiness to promote and to nurture a Junior College. Apparently the college climate has already begun to grow in this town, and we all feel that the location of a Junior College in Enterprise is much to be desired because Enterprise has long been a center of growing business with an inclusive spirit that brings trade and trust from an unusually extensive area.

The Enterprise Banking Company has always been interested in Education, and in the past has contributed help liberally to the public school needs of the town and surrounding area. For years we have counseled with and assisted financially those who sought college training. Although we have no formal Educational Loan Department in the bank, we have done extensive lending for this purpose over the years of our existence. It will certainly be our intention to continue this help and to increase the effort in that direction as opportunities present themselves.

If Enterprise is deemed by you and your Committee as a worthy place for the location of one of the proposed Junior Colleges, the Officers and Employees of the Enterprise Banking Company pledge our interested support to every cause in connection with the growth and full development of the school.

Sincerely,

ENTERPRISE BANKING COMPANY


President

Figure 2.5. Letter from Benjamin B. Henderson to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 13, 1963.²⁴⁹

²⁴⁹ *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 23.*

THE CITIZENS BANK

CAPITAL \$ 150,000.00

ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA

August 13, 1963

D. F. REAVES
PRESIDENT

Mr. Ben A. Forrester
Chairman of State Junior College Committee
State Department of Education
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forrester:

I am writing urging you to consider Enterprise as a location for one of the State Junior Colleges. We feel that Enterprise is favorably situated geographically for a school of this type. We are quite some distance from any major college and are easily and readily accessible to all points in Southeast Alabama. We estimate that the area that could be served by a Junior College here in Enterprise would have a population of approximately 200,000 or more.

Even before the Legislature passed the bill authorizing these Junior Colleges, Enterprise had been working on the possibility of establishing one here, and much work and research has been done along those lines. The people of this area are 100% behind such a project. The Lions Club and the Rotary Club of Enterprise have each pledged \$1,000.00 toward a scholarship fund should such a school be located in Enterprise. This bank has in the past, and will continue to grant educational loans to deserving students, both on an individual basis, and through the United Student Aid Funds.

Anything that you and your committee may do toward giving Enterprise favorable consideration will be greatly appreciated.

Thanking you and with best regards, I am

Very truly yours,


President

DFR/ow

Figure 2.6. Letter from D. F. Reaves to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 13, 1963.²⁵⁰

²⁵⁰ *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 24.*

August 15, 1963

Mr. B. A. Forrester, Chairman
Junior College Committee
State Department of Education
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forrester:

As you know, I would support an effort to locate one of the new Junior Colleges in my own County of Dale; however, in the event that Dale County should not be considered for the location of a Junior College for any reason, then in that event, I would like to recommend and urge that favorable consideration be given to the location of one of the Junior Colleges in Enterprise.

The location of a Junior College in Enterprise would be advantageous to a large segment of the population of this area. Its closeness to Fort Rucker would make it serve many children of families that are stationed there, and who would otherwise be unable to attend college.

I am certain that you will find one hundred per cent cooperation from all of the citizens of Enterprise, and the City and County governing bodies.

I certainly hope that favorable consideration will be given to the location of one of the Junior Colleges in Enterprise in the event referred to above.

Yours very truly,

Henry B. Steagall, II
Henry B. Steagall, II

HBS/bbg

bcc: Mr. Douglas Brown, Ozark, Alabama
bcc: Mr. Ben Byrd Henderson, Enterprise Banking Company, Enterprise, Al
bcc: Senator Ray Lolley, Senate Chamber, State Capitol, Montgomery, Al
bcc: Mr. Drexel Cook, House of Representatives, State Capitol,
Montgomery, Alabama

Figure 2.7. Letter from Henry B. Steagall, II, to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 15, 1963.²⁵¹

²⁵¹ *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama*, 33.



SAWYER CANDY COMPANY

ELBA WHOLESALERS ALABAMA

DISTRIBUTORS OF
- FOODS
- DRUGS
- NOTIONS
- PAPER PRODUCTS

TELEPHONE 897-2808

BRANCH
DEFUNIAK WHOLESALE COMPANY
DeFuniak Springs, Florida

August 14, 1963

Mr. B. A. Forrester, Chairman
Junior College Committee
Department of Education
Montgomery, Alabama

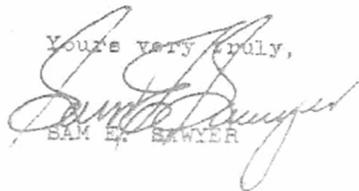
Dear Mr. Forrester:

We are very much interested in the Junior College Program for Alabama and hope that your committee will locate one of these schools in our section of Alabama, as we feel that it is very important for the education of our young people in Southeast Alabama.

If it is not located in my vicinity, I favor Enterprise as a location, as it would be accessible to a large part of this section of the State.

Thank you for anything you may do for us in this matter.

Yours very truly,


SAM E. SAWYER

EES:LR



Candy Is Good Food



Let Some Candy Stay



Figure 2.8. Letter from Sam E. Sawyer to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 14, 1963.²⁵²

²⁵² Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 34.

When Mr. Forrester presented the committee's recommendations on October 1, 1963, Southeast Alabama was identified as an excellent area to support a junior college.

The five areas designated by the committee were chosen to enhance access to higher education. The five areas included the following counties:

Site #1: Limestone, Madison, Morgan, Marshall, and Cullman Counties

Site #2: Jefferson, Walker, Shelby, St. Clair, and Blount Counties

Site #3: Talladega, Clay, Tallapoosa, Elmore, and Coosa Counties

Site #4: Coffee, Dale, Henry, Houston, Geneva, and Covington Counties

Site#5: Baldwin, Escambia, Conecuh, Mobile, Washington, Clarke, and Monroe Counties²⁵³

Once Forrester designated the areas chosen to support a junior college, he identified the resources each city proposed to support a junior college. Site #4 consisted of six cities.²⁵⁴ Each city proposed the following resources:

- 1) Andalusia—Offered two sites consisting of forty acres each
- 2) Dothan—Offered 100 acres and a renovated building consisting of 15 rooms for temporary operations

²⁵³ Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, October 1, 1963, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL.

²⁵⁴ Ibid, 113.

- 3) Enterprise—Offered 6 sites with 100 acres for each site and \$15,000 worth of scholarships donated by local community, businesses, churches and civic clubs
- 4) Eufaula—Offered 4 sites ranged as small as 40 and large as 108 acres and scholarship funds valued at “several hundred dollars”
- 5) Newton—Offered 4 sites with 100 acres each
- 6) Opp—Offered several sites²⁵⁵

These six cities competed for a junior college by writing proposals to Mr. Forrester. Among the six cities seeking a two-year college, Enterprise and Dothan offered the most land, an attractive consideration for the state. One of the requirements for a city to be awarded a two year school required donating the college’s location to the state free.²⁵⁶ A minimum donation of 100 acres of land required consideration for a junior college. Dothan provided strong support for a junior college. According to *The Dothan Eagle* article, “Sweeping Expansion of Program Evident,” dated October 9, 1963, Dothan and Houston County offered the State Board of Education 100 acres of land located on Napier Field, a former World War II airport and home to George C. Wallace State Regional Trade School.²⁵⁷ Dothan community leaders worked with the Foundation for Higher Education, and offered the state “the Foundation building at 212 W. Bureshaw Street, which is now under lease to the University of Alabama for a University

²⁵⁵ Ibid, 113.

²⁵⁶ *State of Alabama Junior College Facilities* (Montgomery: Skinner Printing: 1968), 3.

²⁵⁷ “Sweeping Expansion of Program Evident,” *The Dothan Eagle*, October 9, 1963. The George Corley Wallace State Regional Trade School was named for Governor Wallace’s father, George Corley Wallace.

Center.”²⁵⁸ Dothan wanted a junior college to compliment the George C. Wallace Technical School that was awarded in 1947. It was not the first time Enterprise and Dothan competed against each other for a two-year college. Enterprise and Dothan also competed for the first trade school in 1948, a battle Dothan won.

Enterprise citizens felt encouraged a trade school would be established in Enterprise in 1947 after Governor James “Big Jim” Folsom’s accepted an invitation from Mrs. L. L. Farris to discuss the advantages of a trade school in Enterprise.²⁵⁹ Coffee County citizens felt Enterprise would receive favorable consideration due to Coffee County being Governor Folsom’s home county. Elba, Governor Folsom’s hometown, originally pursued one of the trade schools, but decided to support Enterprise’s efforts for a trade school.²⁶⁰ On February 2, 1948, local Enterprise leaders L. H. Sessions, J. T. Grimes, E. C. Sherling, Professors R. L. Bates and H. T. Grace, J. T. Pittman, E. W. Nichols, Professor J. C. Dixon, Mayor L. P. Mullins, Representative H. B. Larkin, and Jordan Lindsey met with Dr. Meadows, State Superintendent of Education, Mr. R. E. Cammack, Director of Vocational Education, Ben E. Hare, Associate Supervisor Trade and Industrial Education, Mr. Fred Williamson, Assistant Supervisor of Trades and Industrial Education, and Mr. Kent, State Supervisor of Agriculture representing the Trades School Survey Committee (TSSC).²⁶¹

²⁵⁸ Ibid.

²⁵⁹ “Governor Requested to Favor Location of Trade School Here.” *The Enterprise Ledger*, November 28, 1947.

²⁶⁰ “Trade School Site Considered by Group to Select Location,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, February 13, 1948.

²⁶¹ Ibid.

Table 2.3. Alabama Trade School Survey Staff, 1948.²⁶²

• Dr. Austin R. Meadows	State Superintendent of Education
• J.F. Ingram	State Supervisor of Trades and Industrial Education
• R.E. Cammack	State Director of Vocational Education
• J.C. Cannon	State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture
• J.W. Letson	State Supervisor of Research and Surveys, and Assistant Director of the Division of Administration and Finance
• Ben E. Harris	State Supervisor and Itinerant Teacher Trainer of Trades and Industrial Education
• Fred C. Williamson	Assistant State Supervisor and Itinerant Teacher Trainer of Trades and Industrial Education

During their visit local leaders showed the TSSC 30 acres of land available for the trade school. Communities seeking a trade school provided free land for the sites of the trade schools. The TSSC visited the 30-acre site, but required “500 acres of tillable land, preferable all in one body, and not too far removed from the site of the school building.”²⁶³ The TSSC notified Enterprise that it had received Elba’s support for a trade school. The TSSC informed Enterprise they would review other sites before making a decision. The TSSC next visited Dothan, Alabama, in Houston County. Dothan gained the support of four southeastern counties for a trade school.²⁶⁴ Enterprise did not support Dothan’s efforts for a school. As Victor Smith noted in *The*

²⁶² Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, dated May 5, 1948, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL.

²⁶³ Ibid.

²⁶⁴ Victor Smith, “Wiregrass Cooperation Brings Trade School to Dothan,” *The Dothan Eagle*, May 16, 1948.

Dothan Eagle article, “Wiregrass Cooperation Brings Trade School to Dothan,” Dale County, Houston County, Geneva County, and Henry County supported Dothan in getting the first trade school.²⁶⁵ Dothan offered 500 acres of land from Napier Field Air Base and any buildings “deemed necessary by the school planners.”²⁶⁶ On May 14, 1948, Dothan was awarded a trade school under the Regional Vocational and Trade School Act.²⁶⁷ Speculations surrounded Dothan’s victorious campaign over Enterprise due to Houston County’s political influence, which included Barbour County Representative George C. Wallace.²⁶⁸ Since Wallace’s home county fell within the Third Congressional District, “it was expected that, through ‘legislative courtesy’ the first school would be placed in the Third Congressional District.”²⁶⁹ On May 14, 1948, Dothan was awarded a trade school by the Alabama State Board of Education.²⁷⁰

²⁶⁵ Ibid.

²⁶⁶ Ibid, 2.

²⁶⁷ “Dothan to Get First Trade School: Napier Field Site Picked; School Will Be Built This Year,” *The Dothan Eagle*, May 14, 1948.

²⁶⁸ Dustin Smith, “A Century of Change,” 140-142.

²⁶⁹ Victor Smith, “Wiregrass Cooperation Brings Trade School to Dothan,” *The Dothan Eagle*, May 16, 1948.

The Third Congressional District included Barbour County, home of Representative George C. Wallace.

²⁷⁰ “Dothan to Get First Trade School: Napier Field Site Picked; School Will Be Built This Year,” *The Dothan Eagle*, 14 May 1948.

Table 2.4. Alabama State Board of Education members, 1948.²⁷¹

- Governor James E. Folsom (President and Chairman of the Board)
- Austin R. Meadows (State Superintendent of Education)
- Roy L. Nolan, Jr.
- N.L. Upshaw
- Harry M. Ayers
- Joe Starnes
- L.H. Ellis
- Rankin Fite
- John M. Snodgrass
- C.M.A. Rogers
- Donald Comer

The City of Enterprise did not receive a trade school in 1948 and was concerned it would not win a junior college either in 1963. The problem was that Dothan received support from Dr. Austin Meadows, State Superintendent of Education, who reminded local Dothan civic leaders that he helped to secure the George Wallace Trade and Vocational School for Dothan.²⁷² Dothan's proposal provided land with 100 acres, a facility with 15 rooms available, and access to more students than Enterprise. Dothan claimed "4,395 students attending high school in the area could be served."²⁷³ The leadership in Dothan provided an excellent proposal for a junior

²⁷¹ Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, dated May 5, 1948, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL

²⁷² "City Makes Appeal For Junior College," *The Dothan Eagle*, October 1, 1963.

²⁷³ "Houston on List as College Site," *The Dothan Eagle*, October 2, 1963.

college. The request for a junior college was buoyed by the involvement of Mr. Benjamin Abb Forrester.

Forrester had served as Principal of Enterprise High School in 1956.²⁷⁴ He knew the local people and familiarized himself with the local network of educational support in Enterprise. The local support was represented in a proposal submitted by O.I. Cunningham.²⁷⁵ The proposal persuaded the Alabama State Board of Education Junior College Committee to recommend Enterprise as a site for a junior college.

Enterprise's proposal, prepared by Ben B. Henderson, Lew Sessions, O.I. Cunningham and M.N. Brown, was one of thirty five delivered to Mr. Forrester.²⁷⁶ Because Enterprise already had sought a private junior college, Mr. O.I. Cunningham collected previously developed materials and brought the proposal to Mr. Forrester. For months, Enterprise's Junior College Committee waited to learn if Enterprise was considered for a junior college. The first sign that a junior college might be built in Enterprise occurred when Dr. Austin Meadows, State Superintendent, visited one of the potential sites. Mr. Clayton Metcalf, one of the four men who had accepted the challenge to fund a private junior college, remembered Dr. Meadows, who "climbed up on a fence in the middle of a peanut field about where the administration building is now located" and said, "This is where we will put the main building."²⁷⁷ His statement provided

²⁷⁴ Shoffner, *Dateline: Enterprise*, 32-33.

²⁷⁵ "Enterprise Planned for Junior College before the State Acted in 1963," *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 29, 1975.

²⁷⁶ Shoffner, *Dateline: Enterprise*, 82-83.

²⁷⁷ "Enterprise Planned for Junior College" *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 29, 1975.

the first assurance Enterprise would receive a junior college. On October 1, 1963, Mr. Forrester announced Area 4 as the southeastern area for a junior college.²⁷⁸ Since May 1963, Enterprise and Dothan had campaigned for a junior college. For eight days Enterprise, Dothan, Headland, Opp, Newton, and Andalusia waited for an announcement on which site would be designated for the two-year school in Area 4. On October 9, 1963, the wait ended. Enterprise and Dothan learned that they would be awarded a junior college. Shoffner's dream had finally come true.

According to the Alabama State Board of Education Minutes, "The following resolution was approved on motion by Mr. Faulk; motion second by Mr. Albritton and carried by all members voting aye: 'BE IT RESOLVED That a junior college be located at Enterprise, Alabama, on a site to be approved by the State Superintendent of Education and furnished to the State without cost.'"²⁷⁹

Enterprise Junior College was established. However, its doors would not open for two more years.

²⁷⁸ "Junior College Decision Postpon'd," *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 26, 1963.

²⁷⁹ Ibid.

CHAPTER 3

WHERE'S THE JUNIOR COLLEGE? THE DELAYED YEARS: 1963-1964

In 1963, a special session of the Alabama Legislature enacted five new junior college and five new trade schools in the state. The State Board of Education Junior College Committee, Chaired by Benjamin Abb Forrester, provided five areas in which to locate the newly authorized junior colleges. The Junior College Committee prepared for five new sites, while the legislation passed funding of \$15,000,000 for ten new public two-year colleges under the authority of the Wallace-controlled Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority. The \$15,000,000 million dollars was equally divided between the five junior colleges and trade schools. The five new junior colleges would get \$7,500,000 or \$1,500,000 per two-year college in 1963.²⁸⁰ Enterprise State Junior College enrolled its first class in 1965.

Why did it take two years to open the school doors in these newly established state supported two-year institutions? Four major events affected the delayed opening of the two year schools. First, the original number increased from five junior colleges to ten and five trade schools to twelve, putting some financial strain on the full implementation of the plan;²⁸¹ Second, Northwest State Junior College and Southern Union College petitioned the Alabama State Board of Education for membership into the system, creating fewer funds to operate the newly created system; Third, Forrester learned about establishing junior colleges from Dr. James Wattenbarger,

²⁸⁰ Stephen G. Katsinas, "George C. Wallace and the Founding of Alabama's Two-Year Colleges," *The Journal of Higher Education* 65, no.4 (1994): 462-464.

²⁸¹ Ibid.

who is often referred to as the father of the Florida Community College System, who aided Forrester with developing junior colleges in Alabama including Enterprise State Community College. Finally, Governor Wallace pursued his presidential aspirations in the presidential election of 1964, wasting time he could have spent on accelerating the junior colleges becoming operable.

Increased Junior Colleges

On May 3, 1963, the Alabama legislature approved Act 92, 93, and 94 providing the funding, location, and governance for five new junior colleges and five new trade schools. The announcement of ten two-year institutions brought increased competition throughout the state. Local cities competed for one of the original five junior colleges promised. Local Communities waited until October 9, when the Alabama State Board of Education (ASBE) announced the cities selected for a junior college. Surprisingly five additional junior college institutions would be added by the state. By doubling the quantity of junior colleges, the ASBE increased the size of the system while decreasing the funds allotted for each college.

With more two-year schools in the system, the state decreased the individual allotment of \$1,500,000 to finance each of the original ten two-year institutions. The \$15,000,000 now had to cover all twenty-two, two-year colleges in the state. The Alabama State Board of Education authorized an increase in the two-year schools from 10 to 22. Site 4 received three additional two-year schools for a total of four schools in Site 4.²⁸² The growth in quantity, combined with the

²⁸² “Significant Recognition,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, October 22, 1963. Site 4 contained a junior college for Enterprise, a technical school for Opp, AL, later named Douglass MacArthur State Technical College; Dothan received a junior college with the George C. Wallace Trade-Technical College.

decrease in funding, delayed the opening three junior colleges. According to Forrester, “For the originally proposed five colleges, \$7.5 million was allocated to be divided equally among them giving each school a set up budget of \$1.5 million.”²⁸³ When Forrester learned he was assigned the task of identifying locations for a system, he planned for five junior colleges. Within two weeks of the Alabama State Board of Education Junior College Committee’s site selection recommendations, he was notified to plan for twelve junior colleges. According to Forrester, “However, two weeks after we submitted our recommendations for locations of the five schools, the State Board met and established seven more schools.”²⁸⁴ Forrester’s workload doubled in two weeks. The increased number of junior colleges reduced the legislators’ original allotment of \$1.5 million for each new junior college to \$750,000.

Clearly, Governor Wallace needed more money to support the additional two-year colleges. He prepared to battle the legislature for more money. Luckily for Wallace, his two-year system proved very popular among the citizens of Alabama. According to Stephen Katsinas, “So popular was the idea that soon legislators’ political strength would be judged on the basis of whether they had the clout to deliver a two-year institution to their district.”²⁸⁵ The legislators returned to pass legislation for more money to fund Wallace’s junior and technical college system. One year later, in 1964, the legislature passed Public Act 134, which provided an

²⁸³ “Founding President Emphasized Student Needs, Transfer Program,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, 2 May, 1990, p. 4.

²⁸⁴ *Ibid*, 4.

²⁸⁵ Katsinas, “George C. Wallace,” 462-464.

additional \$15,000,000 bond to finance the two-year colleges in Alabama.²⁸⁶ While the number of junior colleges doubled within Forrester's first year of planning, Alabama also authorized two junior colleges to come under the supervision of the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority.

When Forrester agreed to prepare five sites for junior colleges in Alabama, he never dreamed that as Assistant State Superintendent of Education he would witness thirteen junior colleges under the control of the system. While he planned eleven junior colleges in the system, the first, Northwest Junior College, and the thirteenth, Southern Union College, entered the system through separate legislation. On September 16, 1963, while Forrester and the Alabama State Board of Education Junior College Committee searched Alabama for five junior college sites, the Alabama legislature authorized the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority to acquire ownership of Northwest Junior College.²⁸⁷ Based upon Act. 590, the state legislature authorized Northwest State Junior College to become a part of the system. Once Northwest State Junior College obtained membership into the junior college system, the local Board of Trustees released control of the two- year college to the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority. The school board did not accept Northwest State Junior College into the system until October 29, 1963.²⁸⁸ According to the Alabama State Board of Education minutes, Senator Emmett Oden, Northwest State Junior College attorney Mr. Hafford Neal Taylor and President Mr. James Glascow submitted all documentation to Dr. Austin Meadows

²⁸⁶ The Alabama Department of Education, *Alabama's Junior Colleges: Your First Choice* (1968), 6-7; Katsinas, "George C. Wallace," 465; *The History of Alabama State Junior Colleges*. (1975), 5.

²⁸⁷ The Alabama Department of Education, *Alabama's Junior Colleges*, 6-7.

²⁸⁸ *The History of Alabama State Junior Colleges*. (1975), 6.

who recommended that Northwest State Junior College be accepted under the supervision of the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority (ATSJCA).²⁸⁹ Twenty days after the first cities were awarded ten junior colleges, ATSJCA operated its first junior college. Northwest State Junior College entered the system as the first operational junior college. Southern Union College would soon enter the system as the second.

²⁸⁹ Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, October 29, 1963, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL., 122; *The History of Alabama State Junior Colleges*, 6.

Table 3.1. Junior College sites under the leadership of Benjamin A. Forrester

Original Location	Original Name	Date *Joined/Established	Current Name
*Phil Campbell	Northwest Alabama Junior College	09/16/1963 * Joined	Northeast-Shoals Community College
Northeast Alabama	Northeast Alabama State Junior College	10/09/1963	Northeast State Community College
Decatur	Joined the Tennessee Valley Trade School	10/01/1963	John C. Calhoun Community College
Alexander City	Alexander City State Junior College	10/09/1963	Central Alabama Community College
Monroeville	Patrick Henry State Junior College	10/09/1963	Alabama Southern Community College
Enterprise	Enterprise State Junior College	10/09/1963	Enterprise State Community College
Gadsden	Joined the Gadsden School of Trades	10/09/1963	Gadsden State Community College
Dothan	Joined George C. Wallace Trade School	10/09/1963	Wallace Community College Dothan
Jefferson County	Joined Wenonah Trade School	10/09/1963	Lawson State Community College

Table 3.1 (continued)

Jefferson County	Jefferson State Junior College	10/09/1963	Jefferson State Community College
Brewton	Jefferson Davis State Junior College	10/09/1963	Jeff Davis Community College
Bay Minette	William Lowndes Yancey State Junior College	10/29/1963	Faulkner State Community College
**Southern Union State Junior College	Southern Union Junior College	08/03/1964 * Joined	Southern Union State Community College

Southern Union College began in 1922 as a religious supported private junior college.²⁹⁰ Originally established as Bethlehem College, Southern Union College operated and received support from the Southern Christian Convention of Congregational Christian Churches membership.²⁹¹ Throughout Alabama, private junior colleges received assistance through religious affiliations. For over forty -two years (1922-1964), Southern Union College maintained its operation by relying on financial contributions from church members. On January 30, 1964, Southern Union petitioned the Alabama State Board of Education for membership into the two-

²⁹⁰Southern Union State Community College, “About SUSCC,” accessed, May 20, 2014, <http://www.suscc.edu/about-suscc/about-suscc.cms>.

²⁹¹ Ibid.

year system.²⁹² According to the Alabama State Board of Education minutes, Southern Union College was represented by President Dr. Walter Graham, Senator Julian Lowe, Representative Gus Young, and Probate Judge Stell Benefield.²⁹³ Senator Lowe presented the financial report to the board members who moved unanimously to accept Southern Union College into the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority.²⁹⁴ The members of the Southern Christian Convention of Congregational Christian Churches forfeited land and facilities to the Trade School and Junior College Authority. Once Southern Union College deeded its property and facilities to the state, the College was no longer a private junior college. On August 3, 1964, the Alabama Legislature passed Act No. 153, which “authorized the acquisition, operation, and maintenance of Southern Union College as a state educational institution and made appropriations for its operations.”²⁹⁵ Southern Union College, renamed Southern Union State Junior College, became the second operational junior college in the system.²⁹⁶ Southern Union State Junior College entered the two-year system under Mr. Forrester’s leadership.

Increasing the number of junior colleges and gaining control of two additional junior colleges stalled the establishment of a junior college in Enterprise. The Alabama State Board of Education appointed Benjamin Abb Forrester to lead a Junior College Committee to determine the sites for five schools. Forrester needed a plan to establish a junior college system. Forty-one

²⁹² *The History of Alabama State Junior Colleges*, 6.

²⁹³ Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, January 30, 1964, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL., 132.

²⁹⁴ Ibid.

²⁹⁵ *The History of Alabama State Junior Colleges*, 6.

²⁹⁶ Ibid.

states created two-year systems prior to that of the state of Alabama.²⁹⁷ Alabama needed assistance to establish a system of junior colleges. Forrester received assistance from Dr. James Wattenbarger, credited with assisting 34 states with establishing two year systems and considered the father of Florida's Community College System."²⁹⁸

James Wattenbarger, considered a pioneer in Florida's junior college movement, was himself a graduate of a junior college- the Palm Beach Junior College (PBJC).²⁹⁹ In 1933 PBJC was Florida's first public two-year institution.³⁰⁰ Florida, like Alabama, had private junior colleges before the state established a public junior college system. The Florida Legislature prepared for public junior colleges by passing a law in 1939 authorizing counties with populations over 50,000 to petition the State Board of Education for a public junior college.³⁰¹ Florida failed to create any public junior colleges from 1933 to 1947. The causes for the lack of progress was related to the Great Depression (1929-1941) and later, to World War II (1941-

²⁹⁷ Roy Shoffner, *Dateline: Enterprise* (Tallahassee: Rose Printing Company, 1987), 81.

²⁹⁸ "James Wattenbarger, a Top Educator, Dies at 84". *The New York Times*, August 17, 2006, http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/17/education/17wattenbarger.html?_r=0; Sante Fe College "Library Mission Statement," accessed June 6, 2014, http://dept.sfcollege.edu/library/content/pdf/policies/policies_archive.pdf.

²⁹⁹ "James Wattenbarger, Father of Florida's Community College System," University of Florida, accessed June 6, 2014, <http://education.ufl.edu/news/2006/09/14/james-wattenbarger-father-floridas-community-college-system>.

³⁰⁰ Randall Hanna and Carrie Henderson, "Florida," in *Fifty State Systems of Community Colleges Mission, Governance, Funding, and Accountability*, ed. Janice Nahra Friedel, Jim Killaccky, Emily Miller, and Steve Katsinas. (Johnson City: Tennessee: Overmountain Press, 2014), 57.

³⁰¹ James L Wattenbarger and Harry. T Albertson. "A Succinct History of the Florida Community College System," accessed June 6, 2014, <https://afc.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/community%20college%20history.pdf>.

1945). In 1947, Howell Watkins, who served dual roles as Principal of Palm Beach High School and Dean of Palm Beach Junior College, asked James Wattenbarger, who at the time was a graduate student at the University of Florida, to write a report on “junior colleges” for the Florida Citizens Committee on Education (FCCE). The FCCE submitted the *Florida Citizens Committee Report on Education* to the Florida Legislature. The report included Wattenbarger’s recommendation “...that junior colleges should become an operational component of the local school systems provided that the County Boards of Public Instruction received approval from the State Board of Education to operate a junior college.”³⁰² Wattenbarger’s recommendation adumbrated Alabama’s establishment of Northwest State Junior College (NWSJC). NWSJC became Alabama’s first state-supported public junior college when the Legislature passed Act No. 888 on September 8, 1961.³⁰³ This legislation authorized a governing body to locate a junior college in Franklin, Winston, or Marion County. The similarity between Wattenbarger’s recommendation and Act No. 888 allowed local communities to start the junior colleges once approved by their state board of education. For example, NWSJC’s board consisted of twenty-four members.³⁰⁴ According to ACT 888,

The governor, the state superintendent of education, the member of the state Senate representing the senatorial district composed of Franklin and Marion Counties, the member of the state Senate representing the senatorial district of Winston County is a part, the members of the House of Representatives of the Alabama Legislature from Franklin, Marion, and Winston Counties, the chairman of the court of county commissioners, board of revenue, or other like governing body of each of these counties, the county superintendent of education of each of these counties, the representatives in the House of Representatives of the United States Congress from the congressional

³⁰² Ibid, 2-3; Hanna and Henderson. “Florida,” 57.

³⁰³ *The History of Alabama State Junior Colleges*, 1.

³⁰⁴ Dustin Smith, “A Century of Change: The History of Two-Year Education in the State of Alabama, 1866-1963” (Ed.D diss., University of Alabama, 2012), 175.

district containing these counties, and ten members appointed by the governor from among the mayors, intendants and other officers of the incorporated municipalities within these three counties....³⁰⁵

Northwest State Junior College Board of Trustees members were located, involved, or represented the local communities of Marion, Franklin, and Winston Counties. Local interest was represented to identify the local needs of the three counties.

Wattenbarger continued to advocate a junior college system in Florida by publishing *A State Plan for Public Junior Colleges; with Special Reference to Florida* in 1953.³⁰⁶ His book outlined the case for a junior college system in Florida. In 1955, Wattenbarger received a leave of absence to lead the Community College Council (CCC), which created “a long-range plan for the establishment and coordination of community colleges.”³⁰⁷ Wattenbarger achieved his vision of a community college system in 1957. After two years of study (1955-1957) the CCC, chaired by Wattenbarger, issued *The Community Junior College in Florida's Future* to the Florida Legislature.³⁰⁸ The CCC recommended that Florida increase access to 99% of the state population by establishing twenty- eight junior colleges.³⁰⁹ One final recommendation made by the CCC requested placing the twenty-eight junior colleges in six districts throughout Florida. The districts served as strategic locations for the twenty-eight junior colleges. Wattenbarger produced the master plan adopted by the Florida Legislature to establish a system of junior

³⁰⁵ *Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives*, reg. sess., 1961, 1397-1403.

³⁰⁶ James L Wattenbarger, *A State Plan for Public Junior Colleges; with Special Reference to Florida* (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1953).

³⁰⁷ Wattenbarger and Albertson, *Succinct History*, 2-3.

³⁰⁸ *Ibid*, 2-4.

³⁰⁹ *Ibid*.

colleges. Wattenbarger's leadership did not go unnoticed. He was appointed by the 1957 Florida Legislature to serve as the Division Director of the newly established Community College Division.³¹⁰ By 1972, Florida's six junior college districts provided twenty-eight junior colleges.

Wattenbarger's experience in establishing a junior college system aided Forrester's efforts. As noted in *The Enterprise Ledger*, "Enterprise State Junior College itself reflects some of Wattenbarger's ideas, since President B.A. Forrester consulted with him during planning of the institution."³¹¹ Wattenbarger's assistance provided needed guidance with establishing junior colleges in Alabama. A friendship blossomed between Wattenbarger and Forrester while the junior college system in Alabama was established. Forrester resigned as Assistant State Superintendent of Education following his appointment as the first President of Enterprise State Junior College on October 1, 1964³¹². Even as President of ESJC, he relied on Wattenbarger's guidance and knowledge.

The Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority stalled for two years before the newly established junior colleges opened. Limited funding, adding two additional junior colleges, and learning about junior colleges were factors in the delay. While Assistant State Superintendent of Education Forrester studied junior college systems under recognized junior college pioneer Dr. James Wattenbarger, Alabama experienced one more event which slowed down the progress of opening the junior colleges. The fourth event delaying the junior colleges

³¹⁰ Ibid.

³¹¹ "Wattenbarger on Dedication Program Here," *The Enterprise Ledger*, April 27, 1967.

³¹² Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, October 9, 1963, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL, 163.

from opening was Governor George C. Wallace's defiance against the implementation of civil rights policies and programs, and his political aspirations to run for President of the United States.

On June 11, 1963, a little over a month after Gov. Wallace signed legislation to establish five new junior colleges and five new trade schools (May 3, 1963), he made national news when he defied federal court orders denying two African American students admission to the University of Alabama. Governor Wallace established his legacy by "standing in the schoolhouse door" to prevent James Hood and Vivian Malone from integrating the University of Alabama. Governor Wallace appeared before the nation defiant when he refused to accept orders from Assistant U.S. Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach allowing the students to enroll.³¹³ Wallace surrendered to federal authority, but did so under his terms, as pledged in front of the voters of Alabama. He offered one last speech denouncing "military dictatorship" before he stepped aside to the enrollment of Hood and Malone supported by the recently federalized Alabama National Guard General Henry V. Graham.³¹⁴ Wallace concluded his "stance in the schoolhouse door" in an interview with reporters stating,

The South next year will decide who the next president is. Whoever the South votes for will be the next president, because you can't win without the South. And you're going to see that the South is going to be against some folks.³¹⁵

³¹³ Stephan Leshner, *George Wallace: American Populist* (Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1994), 233.

³¹⁴ Dan Carter, *The Politics of Rage: George Wallace, The Origins of the New Conservatism, and the Transformation of American Politics* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1995), 150.

³¹⁵ Leshner, *George Wallace*, 233.

Wallace failed to stop integration at the University, but he left Tuscaloosa with two achievements. First, he was a hero to most white Alabamians and other citizens throughout the United States who resisted the growth of the federal government. Second, Wallace enhanced his plans to run for president. Wallace realized that southern states might make a difference in the presidential election in 1964. As the Kennedy Administration slowly addressed civil rights issues, southern states, dominated by the Democratic Party, resisted Kennedy and his endorsement of civil liberties. Wallace watched as President John F. Kennedy responded to the integration of the University of Alabama by speaking to the nation on national television. His address focused on a “moral crisis.” As Kennedy stated,

A hundred years of delay have passed since President Lincoln freed the slaves, yet their heirs—their grandsons—are not fully freed. They are not yet freed from the bonds of injustice. They are not freed from social and economic oppression. And this nation—for all its hopes and all its boasts—will not be fully free until all its citizens are free. We face, therefore, a moral crisis as a country and a people.³¹⁶

The nation watched Kennedy argue against and called for the end of discrimination against African Americans. He concluded by stating, “It is time to act—in the Congress, in your state and local legislative body, but most of all, in all our daily lives.”³¹⁷ His words, “It is time to act—in Congress” was the first time Kennedy had addressed his commitment to civil rights.³¹⁸ In President Kennedy’s first two years in office, he had failed to make civil rights a top priority. He feared he would lose the South’s support as he prepared for his re-election in 1964. However, Kennedy realized that he had already lost the support of the South when his administration

³¹⁶ Ibid, 234-235.

³¹⁷ Ibid, 235.

³¹⁸ Carter, *Politics of Rage*, 151.

enforced integration. His only hope for southern votes rested on federal legislation giving African Americans the right to vote.³¹⁹ If Kennedy had not been assassinated, it would have been African American voters supporting his re-election in the South, not whites. The majority of southern whites were not prepared “for Congress to enact legislation giving all Americans the right to be served in facilities which are open to the public-hotels, restaurants, theaters, retail stores and similar establishments.”³²⁰ The majority of southerners failed to prepare themselves for integrated schools, much less integrated public facilities. Southerners, as well as many whites in other sections of the United States, felt the federal government violated the authority of the states to govern. Wallace gained political momentum by denouncing the federal governments’ involvement in state affairs.

Wallace gained support from many white Americans who feared the national government was too powerful. As Don Jones stated to Burke Marshall, Head of the Civil Rights Division in the U.S. Department of Justice, “For one reason or another, the people seem in great numbers to have concluded that he (Wallace) “succeeded” at Tuscaloosa, despite the Negro students’ entry.”³²¹ Once he honored his campaign speech to “stand in the school house door” to resist integration, the media turned Wallace into the leader of southern states resisting integration. He was portrayed as the defender of states’ rights in the media. This gained him support from

³¹⁹ Robert Dallek and Terry Golway. *Let Every Nation Know: John F. Kennedy in His Own Words* (Naperville Illinois: Sourcebooks, 2006), 203-210.

³²⁰ Leshner, *George Wallace*, 234-235.

³²¹ Carter, *Politics of Rage*, 155. See also Memorandum from Don Jones to Burke Marshall, June 19, 1963, “Alabama” file, Box 17, Burke Marshall Papers, JFK Library. Don Jones informed Burke Marshall, Head of the Civil Rights Division in the Department of Justice, of the increased support Wallace received after the “Stand in the Schoolhouse Door.”

Americans who feared the federal government. Wallace possessed amazing oratorical talents. He used them to achieve the state governorship. After the “stand in the schoolhouse door” Wallace’s oratorical skills put him in the national political spotlight.³²² He was a main attraction in northern cities and on college campuses since he charged no honorarium or travel expenses.³²³ As the nation considered civil rights issues, Wallace received numerous invitations to speak. While Wallace later regretted standing in the school-house door, he gained a lot of national attention from Americans who related to his speeches proclaiming that the federal government violated states’ rights with forced integration.³²⁴ As *The Enterprise Ledger* reported in “Wallace’s ‘Schoolhouse Door’ Stand Approved by All Parts of the Nation,” “Praise God for a servant like you. We are native Pittsburghers, and know what forced segregation is and what it is not.”³²⁵ Wallace received several letters from outside the South praising his resistance to the federal government. Once Wallace received positive national exposure, he entered the 1964 Democratic Primary. As he campaigned for president, he toned down his speeches on segregation. While he criticized the federal government, he never turned down federal dollars from the College Facilities Act of 1963 and the Vocational Education Act of 1963.³²⁶

³²² Ibid, 156; Leshner, *George Wallace*, 238.

³²³ Carter, *Politics of Rage*, 195.

³²⁴ Jody Carlson *George C. Wallace and the Politics of Powerlessness: The Wallace Campaigns for the Presidency, 1964-1976* (New Brunswick: Transaction Books, 1981), 26.

³²⁵ “Wallace’s ‘Schoolhouse Door’ Stand Approved by All Parts of The Nation,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, June 25, 1963.

³²⁶ Katsinas, “George C. Wallace,” 469.

On December 16, 1963, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the College Facilities Act of 1963 (CFA). The CFA built 25-30 community colleges per year, constructed technical institutions, and provided over 230 million dollars for post-secondary education.³²⁷ Wallace gained national exposure criticizing President Johnson during the 1964 presidential election, but welcomed federal dollars for education. As State Superintendent of Education Dr. Austin Meadows stated, “The \$15 million bond issue financed by beer tax, [Act 92] which was passed by the last session of the legislature (May 3, 1963), will make matching funds available for all the federal money we will be entitled to receive for trade schools and junior colleges.”³²⁸ Upon signing the CFA, President Johnson expressed his concerns for all states to appoint a state commission to represent institutions of higher learning for all the people in the state.³²⁹ Gov. Wallace received a recommendation from Dr. Meadows for the Alabama State Board of Education (ASBE) to serve as the state-wide commission in Alabama.³³⁰ By designating the ASBE as the statewide commission, Wallace obtained the power to determine how the federal money would be spent.

The CFA was not the only federal program from which Wallace accepted federal funds. He also received federal dollars from the Vocational Education Act of 1963 to expand two-year education in Alabama. On December 18, 1963, President Johnson announced the Vocational

³²⁷ Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, “Remarks Upon Signing the Higher Education Act,” Washington D.C., December 16, 1963, accessed November 9, 2014, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=26387&st=&st1=>.

³²⁸ Dick Looser, “Millions of Dollars So Near Yet So Far for State,” *The Tuscaloosa News*, January 7, 1964.

³²⁹ Ibid.

³³⁰ Ibid.

Education Act of 1963 (VEA). The VEA provided “for the first time federal funds are going to be available to construct new vocational schools.”³³¹ These two federal acts aided Wallace in building a system of two- year institutions. The Alabama State Board of Education increased the total number of junior colleges to eleven and twenty-four technical schools by 1964.³³² Wallace had no problem accepting federal dollars to build two-year institutions in Alabama.

As Wallace campaigned for the presidency, he failed to move forward with building the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority. Sites were identified by the Alabama State Board of Education Junior College Committee, the Alabama State Board of Education identified cities to receive a junior college or trade schools, but still the two-year institutions were delayed for two years in educating students. Had Wallace devoted his time and attention to improving education, as he did to defying national court orders, the two- year schools might have opened earlier. As the leader of southern resistance to integration, Wallace gained fame, but being involved against integration wasted state tax dollars spent on fighting integration. If Wallace had accepted integration, Alabama political leaders could have prevented integration longer. However, since Wallace fought and resisted integration Alabama was forced to integrate faster than other states. If he would have allowed the schools to integrate at “deliberate speed” Alabama would not have been integrated faster than other southern states.

³³¹ Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, “Remarks Upon Signing the Higher Education Act,” Washington D.C., December 16, 1963, accessed November 9, 2014, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=26387&st=&st1=>.

³³² Katsinas, “George C. Wallace,” 448-449.

The People of Enterprise

While Wallace chased his political dreams, the people of Enterprise realized that more work lay ahead before a junior college opened. Enterprise received a junior college, but money still needed to be collected, sites selected, plans designed by architects, and bids for construction received before a college could open. As *The Enterprise Ledger* noted on October 24, 1963, “The time the community must act to fulfill its promises and meet its responsibilities has arrived.”³³³ The hard work invested by the committees had paid off. A site was awarded for a junior college, but the promises of deeded land and \$60,000 had to be honored. While Enterprise’s Junior College Committee planned on a site for the College, local town leaders committed to paved roads, provided water and sewage lines, and provided gas and electricity without any cost to the institution.³³⁴ The citizens of Enterprise felt that the process of opening Enterprise Junior College moved too slowly. They did not understand why nothing had been done for a year. Progress started when Benjamin Abb Forrester was named President on October 9, 1964.

³³³ “Everyone Should Attend Meeting,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, October 24, 1963.

³³⁴ “Community Meeting Called by Taylor to Discuss Progress on Junior College,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, October 22, 1963.

CHAPTER 4

PIONEER YEAR: 1965

The Alabama State Board of Education named Benjamin Abb Forrester Enterprise State Community College's first President on October 9, 1964.³³⁵ Forrester had been in education for over 30 years when he accepted the presidency.³³⁶ Prior to being named president, Forrester served as the Assistant State Superintendent of Education, 1963-1964, implementing the junior college program. The local members of the Enterprise Junior College Committee (EJCC) hoped Forrester would be interested in leading one of the institutions he helped establish. According to *The Enterprise Ledger*, Forrester had begun his career as a high school teacher, elementary school principal, middle school principal, high school principal in Dallas County and Enterprise, Superintendent of Roanoke City Schools, Superintendent of Fort Payne City Schools and Assistant State Superintendent of Education.³³⁷

Forrester experienced the expansion of the junior college program as Assistant State Superintendent of Education. On May 3, 1963, he witnessed the two-year system established when the Alabama Legislature approved five new junior colleges. Forrester learned the Alabama

³³⁵ Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, October 9, 1964, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL.

³³⁶ "Forrester is Architect of Alabama JC System," *The Enterprise Ledger*, July 13, 1980; *Enterprise State Junior College 1998-2000 Catalog*. (Enterprise: 1998), 4-5.

³³⁷ "Forrester Heads Local Junior College as First President; Well Qualified," *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 28, 1965; "Ft. Payne Educator Accepts New Position," *The Gadsden Times*, May 5, 1963.

Legislature allotted \$7,500,000 for five new junior colleges. He planned to layout the newly created system, which allotted \$1,500,000 for each new junior college. He did not have much time to prepare. Although he originally planned on a system of five new junior colleges, by October, 1963, the Alabama State Board of Education increased the system to twelve; including eleven new junior colleges.³³⁸

³³⁸ On October 9, 1963, the Alabama State Board of Education announced Northeast Alabama, Decatur, Alexander City, Monroeville, Enterprise, Gadsden, Dothan, Jefferson County, Jefferson County, Brewton, and Bay Minette were the original eleven sites to receive a junior college. On September 16, 1963, ACT 590 passed the Alabama Legislature allowing Northwest Alabama State Junior College, the first public supported junior college in Alabama, to become the first operating junior college under the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority. In 1963, Forrester planned building surveys for these eleven new junior colleges and Northwest State Junior College bringing the total number of twelve publicly supported junior colleges in Alabama.

Table 4.1. Eleven new junior colleges, October 1963

By the end of October 1963, Alabama had awarded eleven new junior colleges: the five original Junior College sites, selected by Mr. B. A. Forrester and the Alabama State Board of Education Junior College Committee, plus the six additional junior colleges awarded by the Alabama State Board of Education.

- 1.) Northeast Alabama*
- 2.) Northwest Alabama
- 3.) Decatur
- 4.) Alexander City
- 5.) Monroeville
- 6.) Enterprise
- 7.) Gadsden
- 8.) Dothan
- 9.) Jefferson County
- 10.) Jefferson County
- 11.) Brewton
- 12.) Bay Minette
- 13.) Southern Union College**

*On September 16, 1963, Northwest Junior College became the first operating junior college supervised by the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority, and the Alabama State Board of Education.

**On August 28, 1964, Southern Union College was the thirteenth junior college added to the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority. Southern Union State Junior College became the second junior college supervised by the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority, and the Alabama State Board of Education.

In 1963, no additional monies were provided by the Alabama Legislature for the seven new colleges entering the system, Forrester experienced the nightmare of budgeting the junior colleges in the system. He remembered adjusting his budgets and site surveys as he learned more junior colleges entered the system:

My secretary and I worked during the day and my wife and I spent many evening hours around my dining room table putting together the working plans for those first 12 colleges. When the number of schools was expanded from five to twelve, additional money was appropriated changing the amount available to each college and we would have to rework all the building surveys. The process was continuous.³³⁹

On August 25, 1964, the state legislature passed Act 134, which allocated an additional \$15,000,000 for the two-year system.³⁴⁰ These additional funds helped Forrester as he continued to make building surveys for eleven new junior colleges throughout the state. While many educational leaders wanted to see the junior college program fail, Forrester was convinced a two-year program would be successful. He worked tirelessly to build the junior college program.

Forrester's hard work paid off as he was recruited by the Enterprise Junior College Committee to be the College's first president. Once he was appointed president by the Alabama State Board of Education, he wasted little time in building Enterprise Junior College. According to Pamela L. Eddy, Associate Professor of Higher Education in the department of Educational Policy, Planning, and Leadership at the College of William and Mary, during the 1960s

³³⁹ Tex Middlebrooks, "Enterprise College Preparing to Open," *The Dothan Eagle*, August 7, 1965; "Founding President Emphasized Student Needs, Transfer Program," *The Enterprise Ledger*, May 2, 1990.

³⁴⁰ Stephen G. Katsinas, "George C. Wallace and the Founding of Alabama's Two-Year Colleges," *The Journal of Higher Education* 65, no.4 (1994): 465. ACT 134 authorized an additional \$15,000,000 for the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority.

community college presidents were like dictators with the power to build and save their institution.³⁴¹ Forrester experienced the urgency of planning Enterprise State Community College's first year. By the time he began his first day on January 1, 1965, the Alabama State Board of Education announced the two-year school's plan to open in September of that same year.³⁴² Forrester, along with the other presidents of the two-year institutions received a letter from State Superintendent Dr. Austin R. Meadows, which stated, "The State Board of Education unanimously approved starting all the trade schools and junior colleges the last week in September, 1965. You are urged to give every public announcement and notice of this that you can possibly give to all groups and individuals."³⁴³

³⁴¹ Pamela L. Eddy, *Community College Leadership: A Multi-Dimensional Model for Leading Change*, (Sterling: Rowan and Littlefield, 2010), 17. Pamela L. Eddy is an Associate Professor of Higher Education in the department of Educational Policy, Planning, and Leadership at the College of William and Mary. Eddy is recognized as a key scholar on community college leadership.

³⁴² Alabama State Board of Education, Minutes, April 17, 1964, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL.

³⁴³ Austin Meadows, "To Trade School Directors," December 14, 1964, in Alabama Governors (1963-1967: Wallace) Administrative Files: "Educational Department Junior Colleges and Trade Schools," Folder 1 of 3, March 31, 1965-July 15, 1965, Container Folder 14; SG22386, Alabama Department of Archives and History; Montgomery, AL. (See Figures A.26 and A.27 for Dr. Meadows's letter and members of the Alabama State Board of Education 1965.)

STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MONTGOMERY 4, ALABAMA

14
December
1964

TO TRADE SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Under separate cover I am sending you the salary schedule to be used in legislative requests by existing trade schools for the next biennium through Dr. George Layton to the State Finance Director, after such conferences as may be necessary with Mr. Ingram and his assistants, so that the budget can be submitted to the State Budget Officer before January 1, 1965. The salary schedule includes the 10% increase which is part of the Governor's program and you ought to add and document an estimate of the cost of any additional teachers needed because of the "growth factor" either in a new course or for additional teachers by keeping in mind with reference to the "growth factor" the part that new trade schools will take in affecting enrollment at your school. The "growth factor" will have to be an estimate, obviously.

I am recommending that you add 5% to the existing cost of all other expenses except capital outlay which will include clerical assistants, bus drivers, supplies, and non-capital outlay equipment. My capital outlay equipment I mean equipment that will last several years and not be used up annually.

You understand, of course, with reference to the salary schedule that you will make adjustments in individual instructors' salaries in accordance with your best judgment in submitting such salaries with your budgets for approval of the State Board of Education by individuals.

New trade schools will submit two budgets to Dr. George Layton; namely, one to complete the year ending September 30, 1965, which must include teachers' salaries and expenses for September 1965, and such other expenses as you estimate will be necessary to end the fiscal year September 30, 1965; and, in addition, you will submit a budget for the biennium for 1965-66 and 1966-67.

In estimating your budget for 1966-67, I am requesting that you increase your budget request over 1965-66 by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ % or a smaller percentage if you cannot justify 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %. This figure can be easily obtained by multiplying your budget for 1965-66 by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ % for State funds and adding it to your 1966-67 budget estimate.

The State Board of Education approved student fees at \$15 per month for both trade schools and junior colleges and this is to be taken into account in making your budget. The State Board approved your setting up a plan to provide scholarship aid to worthy and needy pupils, along with any aid to employment which you may be able to provide. You understand, of course, that the new student tuition fee does not start until September 1965.

Figure 4.1. Letter from Austin Meadows to Trade School Directors and new Junior College presidents.³⁴⁴

³⁴⁴ Dr. Austin Meadows, "To Trade School Directors," 14 December 1964. Located at the Alabama Department of Archives and History; Montgomery, AL. See Alabama Governor (1963-1967: Wallace) Administrative Files: "Educational Department Junior Colleges and Trade Schools", Folder 1 of 3, March 31, 1965-July 15, 1965. Container Folder 14; SG22386.

To Trade School Directors
December 14, 1964
Page 2

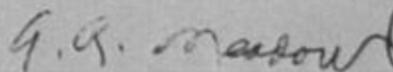
Under separate cover is also being sent the dummy form for student catalogs which you are to adapt to your own school use and use as you see fit. New trade school directors must submit any cost for printing and duplicating such catalogs through Dr. George Layton to the State for printing in order for the existing appropriation to be used for such printing. Any other printing cost will be charged back to the director unless you find contributions or other local sources to take care of reproducing the catalogs.

The State Board approved a districting of the trade schools but authorized the State Superintendent of Education to approve any modification of the districts that may be necessary for economical and needed school transportation. A copy of the districts is being sent under separate cover.

The State Board of Education unanimously approved starting all the trade schools and junior colleges the last week in September, 1965. You are urged to give every public announcement and notice of this that you can possibly give to all groups and individuals. You will be asked if you think the buildings will be completed and your answer should be that we have every reason to believe that the buildings can and will be completed in time to open school in September. You will be asked what can be done if the buildings are not ready and the proper answer to that question is that we will meet that question when and if it comes but we have every reason to believe buildings will be ready.

The entire staff of the State Department of Education concerned with this phase of public education is most anxious to cooperate with you in every way possible to the end of developing an outstanding program of Trade and Industrial Education in Alabama as a part of an outstanding program in all public education in this State.

Sincerely yours,



A. R. Meadows
State Superintendent of Education

ARM:fhs

Figure 4.1. (continued)



Figure 4.2. Alabama State Board of Education members, 1965.

The 1965 Alabama State Board of Education: Standing from left to right: Governor George C. Wallace; Cecil Word, Scottsboro, Eighth District Board Member; Fred L. Merrill, Anniston, Fourth District Board Member; W. C. Davis, Fayette, Seventh District Board Member; Victor Poole, Moundville, Fifth District Board Member; W. M. Beck, Ft. Payne, Seventh District Board Member; Harold C. Martin, Birmingham, Sixth District Board Member; Dr. Austin R. Meadows, State Superintendent of Education. Seating from Left to Right: Dr. James D. Nettles, Arlington, First District Board Member; J. T. Albritton, Andalusia, Second District Board Member; Mrs. Carl Strong, Eufaula, Third District Board Member.³⁴⁵

³⁴⁵ *Enterprise State Junior College, 1965-1966 Catalog* (Enterprise, 1965), 1-3.

Forrester had nine months to prepare for the opening of Enterprise State Community College. Within those nine months, Forrester promoted the institution, named the first faculty, staff, and administration, and prepared for the first registration, which was held on September 27, 1965. According to the “Summary of Status, Plans and Outlook Enterprise Junior College” dated July 26, 1965, Forrester and Ms. Mary Cate, personal secretary to the President, performed work including:

1. Recruiting faculty
2. Visiting all area high schools and recruiting students
3. Accepting applications and interviewing students
4. Studying other junior college programs
5. Setting basic school policies
6. Arranging temporary quarters for fall operations
7. Interpreting the College program through speeches to civic organizations
8. Planning with the architect³⁴⁶

The City of Enterprise provided Forrester an office on the second floor of City Hall.³⁴⁷ On the second floor, Forrester began to promote getting an education from Enterprise State Community College (ESCC). As *The Enterprise Ledger* noted in “Forrester is Architect of Alabama JC System,” “The new president came to Enterprise with a briefcase full of data, 100-acres of land for the college, and a new idea in education in Alabama.”³⁴⁸ While working in his temporary office space, Forrester hired the College’s first employees: Ms. Mary Cate, personal secretary to the President, and Ms. Addie Middlebrooks, a publication secretary.³⁴⁹ According to

³⁴⁶ “Summary of Status, Plans and Outlook Enterprise Junior College” July 26, 1965.

³⁴⁷ City of Enterprise City Council, Minutes, January 5, 1965. Members of the City Council included, Roy Shoffner, Glen Heath, R. F. Paschal, J. Brooks Morgan, Douglas Feagin, and Mayor M. N. Brown.

³⁴⁸ “Forrester is Architect of Alabama JC System,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, July 13, 1980.

³⁴⁹ “Founding President Emphasized Student Needs, Transfer Program,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, May 2, 1990.

Forrester, he hired Ms. Middlebrooks to promote the college. As he stated, “I had a new product and we had to market it. Many were skeptical of such a system and some wagered that in a few years they (the junior colleges) would all be full of hay.”³⁵⁰ Forrester ignored the skeptics who did not believe Alabama could afford, much less sustain, a junior college system. He listened to many complaints from four-year universities and secondary school systems, which accused the junior college system of taking money “needed by them.”³⁵¹

In order to gain the people’s support, Forrester realized the College needed to increase the community’s awareness of the junior college system. As Forrester noted, “One of the first questions we had to answer for ourselves and the people of Alabama was ‘What is a junior college?’ Although Alabama was the forty-second state to organize a junior college system, most people in the state had little or no idea of what one was.”³⁵² Forrester provided the description of a junior college when he stated, “We think it was the intent of the Legislature when it created the program to offer two years of quality education equal to the first two years of an accredited senior college.”³⁵³ Forrester’s statement reflected the American Association of Junior Colleges

³⁵⁰ Ibid.

³⁵¹ “President Forrester- Architect of Alabama’s Junior College System,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 29, 1975.

³⁵² “Founding President Emphasized Student Needs, Transfer Program,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, May 2, 1990. While Forrester was the Assistant State Superintendent of Education eleven new junior colleges were announced by the Alabama State Board of Education. One junior college, Northwest State Junior College, entered the system on September 16, 1963, and became the first operating junior college in the system. Northwest State Junior College had become Alabama’s first publicly supported junior college on September 8, 1961. By October 29, 1963, there were twelve publicly supported junior colleges in Alabama.

³⁵³ “Junior College Will Open This Fall,” *The Birmingham News*, May 2, 1965.

(AAJC) definition. In 1922, the AAJC defined a junior college as “an institution offering two years of instruction of strictly collegiate grade.”³⁵⁴ Forrester elaborated on the curriculum that would be offered. He stated, “to start with, Enterprise Junior College will offer a strictly liberal arts program with basic courses in English, history, math, social studies, physical fitness, art and music. Spanish and French also will be offered the first year.”³⁵⁵ Forrester knew the communities were excited and wanted the two-year program. As Forrester recalled, “I guess I talked to 400 of the leading citizens throughout the state of Alabama that were making applications for these junior colleges, and these citizens are sold on them. It might be that some educators in Alabama do not favor the junior colleges, but the people are for them.”³⁵⁶ Forrester wasted little time informing the public about the junior college. Two of Forrester’s selling points focused on the programs offered for students and three new buildings planned for Enterprise State Community College.

In January 1965, Forrester moved forward with planning efforts regarding the construction of the first three buildings of Enterprise State Community College. Since Enterprise State Junior College had not hired a business manager, Forrester needed the state allocation amounts as he prepared the College’s first three buildings in 1965. Forrester learned how to survey and plan for college facilities as he built a college campus for Enterprise State Community College. In 1964, Kenneth E. Skaggs, Vice-President of St. Petersburg Junior

³⁵⁴ J. P. Bogue, *The Community College*. (New York: McGraw Hill, 1950), xvii. See also Arthur M. Cohen and Florence B. Brawer, *The American Community College*, 5th ed. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008), 4.

³⁵⁵ Tex Middlebrooks, “Enterprise College Preparing To Open,” *The Dothan Eagle*, August 7, 1965.

³⁵⁶ Ben Forrester, “Developments and Directions in Junior College Education in Alabama” (speech, Alabama Association of School Administrators, Auburn, AL, April 27, 1964).

College in Florida, proclaimed that newly established junior colleges needed eighty acres of land to start an institution, but also needed additional land to prepare for future growth.³⁵⁷ Forrester knew that the City of Enterprise had raised \$65,000 for the purchase of 100 acres of land, but he had to prepare a campus master plan.³⁵⁸ In preparing for a campus, Forrester received \$1,200,000 from the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority for construction.³⁵⁹ On May 2, 1965, Forrester announced three buildings for Enterprise State Community College.³⁶⁰ The architectural drawings from H. L. Holman Jr. and Pearson, Humphries and Jones identified these buildings as an administrative building, a science building and a library.³⁶¹ On June 6, 1965, the state revealed Andalusia Development Company provided the lowest bid to build these initial structures. Enterprise received six bids for construction; Andalusia Development Company bid \$937,974 and won the contract.³⁶²

³⁵⁷ Kenneth E. Skaggs, "Providing Plant and Facilities at Clearwater Campus of St. Petersburg Junior College," in *Establishing Junior Colleges: A Report of a National Conference Sponsored by UCLA, The American Association of Junior Colleges, and the Commission for Accrediting Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges* (Los Angeles, 1964), 61-63.

³⁵⁸ "Drive Launched to Raise Funds to Buy Junior College Site on Dothan Highway." *The Enterprise Ledger*, October 29, 1963. The City of Enterprise raised \$65,000 to purchase 100 acres of land. The land was purchased from three local citizens: Comer Sims, 48 acres; Dewey and Helen Penuel, 40 acres; Horace and Dorethy Brabham, 12 acres.

³⁵⁹ *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog, 1966-1967*. (Enterprise, 1966), 3-8.

³⁶⁰ "Junior College Will Open This Fall," *The Birmingham News*, May 2, 1965.

³⁶¹ *Ibid.*

³⁶² "State Opens Bids for Enterprise's Junior College," *The Dothan Eagle*, June 6, 1965. Other bids reported by *The Dothan Eagle* for Enterprise's Junior College included Stuart-McCorkle, Inc. at \$966,500; K. Chavis, \$924, 800; Conner Brothers, \$933,683; Patterson-Allred, \$982,000; C. F. Halstead, \$993,355.

On July 14, 1965, Forrester witnessed the “buildings staked” and “concrete poured” for Enterprise State Junior College.³⁶³ One week later, on July 21, Governor Wallace appeared for the groundbreaking ceremonies.³⁶⁴ Once the buildings were staked, the community realized the dream of a junior college was coming true. The countdown towards operating out of a permanent campus had begun. The Andalusia Development Company estimated 300 days to complete the original three buildings.³⁶⁵ Forrester estimated a year before the college would move to the permanent location. Until the College moved into the original three buildings, temporary facilities were located downtown at the First Methodist Church, First Baptist Church, The Right Price Store; an old furniture warehouse, and the local armory.³⁶⁶ With permanent facilities being constructed, Forrester prepared to hire the first administrators, staff, and faculty.

³⁶³ “Enterprise Jr. College Construction Started,” *The Dothan Eagle*, July 14, 1965.

³⁶⁴ *Anthonomus* (1966), 22-23. (See Figures A.28 and A.29 for pictures of the Groundbreaking Ceremonies.)

³⁶⁵ “Groundwork for Enterprise Junior College Gets Underway,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, July 14, 1965.

³⁶⁶ *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog 1965-1966* (Enterprise, 1965), 11-12; Nancy Brunson, (Biology Instructor, 1965-1989), interview with author May 5, 201; Tommy Johnson, (History Instructor and 1st Dean of Students, 1965-1991), interview with author, May 7, 2015.



Figure 4.3. George C. Wallace at the ESCC groundbreaking ceremony, July 21, 1965. Front row, from left to right: Senator Ray Lolley; Governor George C. Wallace (standing); Hubert Hughes, Superintendent of Geneva County Schools; William Snuggs, local supporter for a two-year school in Enterprise; and Enterprise State Junior College President B. A. Forrester.³⁶⁷



Figure 4.4. Breaking ground at ESCC, July 21, 1965. From left to right: Governor George C. Wallace, Representative Drexel Cook, and President Forrester.³⁶⁸

³⁶⁷ *Anthonomus* (1966), 22-23.

³⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

The First Dean

Joseph Talmadge assumed duties as College Dean on July 1, 1965. After graduating as valedictorian of Greenville High School in 1954, he attended Vanderbilt University on a Walter Oliver Parmer Scholarship and completed his Bachelors of Arts Degree in History in 1958.³⁶⁹ One year later he earned his Master of Arts Degree in History from Vanderbilt University.³⁷⁰ Talmadge began his educational career as an American History teacher at Evergreen High School. For six years, from 1959-1965, he worked in secondary education. During his fourth year of teaching, Governor George C. Wallace and the Alabama legislature established the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority. Talmadge desired to teach history at one of the new junior colleges. In the fall of 1964, Talmadge attended an in-service day for Evergreen High School personnel. Evergreen High School invited the Assistant State Superintendent of Education, Benjamin Abb Forrester, to speak to the faculty. When Talmadge learned Forrester was the guest speaker, he was excited to get to speak with the man identified

³⁶⁹ "Talmadge fills duties of dean," *The Enterprise Ledger*, 28 September 1965; Walter Oliver Parmer (1855-1932) was a very successful businessman, horse breeder, railroad director, and philanthropist. Parmer was born and raised in Greenville, Alabama. In 1883, he moved to Davidson County, Tennessee until his death in 1932. During his life, he assisted many families in South-central Alabama. The Walter Oliver Parmer Scholarship provided scholarships for white males from Butler County, Lowndes County, Conecuh County, Covington County, Crenshaw County, and Wilcox County all located in South-central Alabama. Applicants must have been white males, ranked in the top 4% of the graduating class and lived in those counties for at least one year prior to graduating from one of the counties high school. Scholarship recipients could only attend Auburn University, Vanderbilt University or the University of Alabama. Fifteen scholarships were provided for the following counties: One each for Lowndes, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, and Wilcox Counties and the remaining ten for Butler County. In 1954 the Walter Oliver Scholarship recipient was Joseph D. Talmadge from Conecuh County. See also <http://www.parmerscholars.org/2010/01/walter-o-parmer-biography.html>, accessed on June 18, 2015.

³⁷⁰ Ibid.

as the leader of the two-year system.³⁷¹ Talmadge recalled that he met Forrester after the presentation in the lunchroom. While having lunch, Talmadge introduced himself to Forrester and inquired about a possible history job or being the head of the Social Science Division for one of the new junior colleges.³⁷² Talmadge recalled his first meeting with Forrester,

I walked over to speak to Mr. Forrester about teaching in one of the junior colleges. He asked me how long I had been teaching in high school. I told him about six years. He then stated in order to teach in a junior college you must have a master's degree. I responded by stating I had a master's degree. The next question Mr. Forrester asked was where did you get your master's degree from, Troy? I responded by saying no, it was from Vanderbilt. Mr. Forrester responded, You have a master's degree from Vanderbilt and you are down here teaching these students in the poorest county in Alabama? I said yes, but I wanted to teach in a junior college. He told me to come see him in Montgomery and he would have a job for me.³⁷³

In January of 1965, Talmadge met with President Forrester in Enterprise. On his first visit, Talmadge recalled Forrester offering him a history position for Enterprise State Community College. Talmadge said he had wanted to be the head of the department, but had heard that Mr. Forrester had hired Dr. Susan Clark as the Head of the Social Science Department. However, Forrester had not hired Dr. Clark as the Head of the Social Science Department. Dr. Clark would only be able to work for a year at Enterprise State Community College since her husband was on a military assignment stationed in Ft. Rucker, Alabama;

³⁷¹ Dr. Joseph D. Talmadge, (1st Dean of College 1965-1981; 2nd College President, 1981-1994), interview with author, May 18, 2013. At the time Mr. Forrester met Mr. Joseph D. Talmadge he had not earned his doctorate degree. Mr. Talmadge earned his doctorate in 1976. This chapter acknowledges Talmadge as "Mr." because his doctorate degree had not been earned at the time.

³⁷² Ibid.

³⁷³ Ibid.

therefore, Dr. Clark was hired as a political science teacher.³⁷⁴ When Forrester realized that Talmadge was interested in being the Head of the Social Science Department he offered him the job. After Talmadge's first meeting with Forrester, he left Enterprise as the first Department Head of the Social Science Division.

Forrester's second visit with Talmadge provided time to review building plans. Talmadge arrived to learn about a one-story administration building which contained classrooms, the business office, sick rooms, and the President's Office.³⁷⁵ Forrester wanted Talmadge to see where the administration building and classrooms would be located. Talmadge left Enterprise once he viewed the building plans for the campus. Talmadge left knowing the location of his classroom. It was not his last meeting before he started his teaching duties. According to Talmadge, Forrester called him about two weeks later for a third meeting. Two big surprises resulted from this meeting in June 1965. First, Talmadge learned the administration building would be a two-story building instead of one story. The original plans outlined a one-story administration building named in honor of Senator Ray Lolley, State Senator who supported Governor Wallace's trade school and junior college program.³⁷⁶ As Talmadge recalled,

Senator Lolley decided he wanted the (Administration) building named for himself. So he got the money to put the second story on the building, the Ray Lolley Administration Building, and that is how the administration building got a second story on it. Well as soon as Mr. Lolley got the money for it, the Governor (Wallace) decided he wanted his name on all the administration buildings.³⁷⁷

³⁷⁴ Ibid. Ft. Rucker, Alabama, is located nine miles East of Enterprise, Alabama. Located in Dale County, Ft. Rucker is the home of Army Aviation.

³⁷⁵ "State Open's Bids for Enterprise's Junior College," *The Dothan Eagle*, June 6, 1965.

³⁷⁶ Dr. Joseph D. Talmadge, (first Dean of College 1965-1981; second College President, 1981-1994), interview with author, May 18, 2013.

³⁷⁷ Ibid.

Within two weeks of reviewing the original plans, Talmadge learned the Administration Building would be named in honor of Governor George C. Wallace. The Alabama Legislature wanted to honor Governor Wallace for increasing the number of two-year colleges and passed Act 852 on September 2, 1965.³⁷⁸ Act 852 named all the state junior college administration buildings in honor of Governor Wallace. The legislation stated, “In recognition of his foresight and continuous efforts on behalf of the junior college program that the Administration Building of each new junior college in the State of Alabama be named in honor of Governor George C. Wallace....”³⁷⁹ Gadsden Technical Junior College was the only junior college that did not name its administration building after Governor Wallace. Gadsden Technical Junior College, today Gadsden State Community College, had already named its administration building after James B. Allen, who at the time was Lt. Governor of Alabama.³⁸⁰ Enterprise Junior College named its first

³⁷⁸ *Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives, reg. sess., 1965*, 1589. See also “Wallace Name Wanted on All New Schools,” *The Tuscaloosa News*, June 15, 1966. Governor Wallace’s popularity increased with each new two-year institution opened during his first administration (1963-1967). Gov. Wallace was honored by having all the two-year schools name their administration buildings in his honor. Gov. Wallace also was honored by each public school system, secondary and postsecondary, by placing a cornerstone or plaque in each new building built with additional funds provided by the 1966 Alabama Legislature.

³⁷⁹ *Ibid.* According to Dr. Stephen G. Katsinas, who visited all forty-one two-year colleges in 1986, thirty-eight of forty-one two-year colleges in 1986 had a George Wallace administration building. There were fourteen Lurleen Wallace buildings too.

³⁸⁰ James B. Allen was a lawyer, navy veteran, and politician. During his political career, he served two terms in the Alabama House of Representatives, Etowah County, from 1939-1943, and one term in the Alabama Senate from 1947-1951, before serving as Lt. Governor for the first time under Governor Gordon Persons. He ran successfully as Lt. Governor in 1962 and served from 1963-1967 with Governor George C. Wallace. Allen also served in the United States Senate, replacing Lister Hill, from 1969 until his death on June 1, 1978. *Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives, reg. sess., 1965*, 1590. The Alabama Legislature passed Act 853, which approved Gadsden Technical Junior College, today Gadsden State Community College, to name its Fine Arts Building in honor of Governor George C. Wallace.

building the George C. Wallace Administration Building as mandated by the Alabama Legislature. ESCC received a two-story administration building to honor Senator Ray Lolley, but the building was named for Governor Wallace due to his political clout.³⁸¹

The second surprise Talmadge received from Forrester was when he asked him to be the Dean of the College. Talmadge was surprised by Forrester's request, but also believed another gentleman, Mr. Phillips, a local high school principal, had been offered the job. Talmadge recalled,

By June 1965, I learned a principal, Mr. Phillips, would be the Dean and his wife would be librarian. Then it turned out Dr. Meadows told Mr. Forrester he could not give any junior college contracts until December of 1965 (2 months after classes started). And so Mr. Phillips could not give up his job as a high school principal and his wife's job to come up here and work without a contract. Those were the days when you had to be careful on giving up a job where you had a contract and go to a place where you would not have one. Plus, people did not want to go to these new junior colleges because nobody knew anything about them. So Mr. Forrester wanted me to be dean. I told him I do not especially want to be dean, I want to teach history. Mr. Forrester said, you can teach history. Some, at first, but then you'll have to make a choice. I said ok, I'll be Dean if I can go back to teaching history when I get through deaning.³⁸²

Talmadge left Enterprise for the third time, learning he would teach American History, serve as Head of the History Department, and be the first Dean of the College. Forrester wanted an administrator who could teach in the classroom. On June 22, 1964, six months before he started

³⁸¹ Katsinas, "George C. Wallace," 447-472. The Alabama Legislature enabled Governor George C. Wallace to establish a Trade School and Junior College Authority. While the legislatures passed legislation for two-year institutions, it was Wallace who received the credit. For every new two-year college built, Wallace's popularity increased. As Wallace's popularity increased, he was able to persuade the legislatures to fund more two-year colleges.

³⁸² Dr. Joseph D. Talmadge, (first Dean of College 1965-1981; second College President, 1981-1994), interview with author, May 18, 2013.

his first day as President, Forrester, along with Dr. Ernest R. Knox, Consultant in Junior College Education to the Alabama State Department of Education, announced at the Conference on Meeting Alabama Educational Needs for Post High School Youth and Adults, “We have discussed having all of the administrative officers do some teaching in the school, especially when these schools first start.”³⁸³ Talmadge returned to Enterprise on July 1, 1965, as the Dean of the College. Talmadge performed the following duties:

1. Develop a tentative class schedule
2. Selecting and ordering textbooks in cooperation with the President and faculty
3. Making plans for a counseling and testing session with all students prior to registration
4. Assigning duties to faculty members
5. Visiting other junior colleges and studying their programs
6. Designing student record and report forms³⁸⁴

The First Business Manager

Fred Peters was the College’s first Business Manager. Unlike Talmadge, who never met Forrester until he started working at the College, Peters knew Forrester as a third grader while Forrester was the principal at the elementary school he attended.³⁸⁵ Peters arrived for his first official day on August 1, 1965.³⁸⁶ He was one of the pioneer administrators who had experience at the postsecondary level. He taught business courses at Chipola Junior College, located in

³⁸³ Ernest R. Knox, “Alabama Plans and Programs for Junior College Education,” speech, Alabama Association of School Administrators, Auburn AL. June 22, 1964. Dr. Knox served as Consultant in Junior College Education to the Alabama State Department of Education (April – October 1964), and as President of Northeast Alabama State Junior College (1964-1982).

³⁸⁴ “Summary of Status, Plans and Outlook Enterprise Junior College” July 26, 1965.

³⁸⁵ “Peters Handles EJC Business,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 28, 1965.

³⁸⁶ “Summary of Status, Plans and Outlook Enterprise Junior College” July 26, 1965.

Marianna, Florida, before he arrived at the College, but had no prior experience in a business office.³⁸⁷ Peters performed duties outside of the Business Office by assisting with registration and teaching business classes during the fall quarter.³⁸⁸

The First Faculty, Staff, and Administration

For seven months the College operated with five employees: Mr. Forrester, President; Ms. Mary Cate, personal secretary to the President; Ms. Addie Middlebrooks, publication secretary; Joe Talmadge, Dean of the College; and Fred Peters, Business Manager. On July 10, 1965, Forrester announced the names of the first faculty of Enterprise State Community College. The pioneer faculty included; LeRoy Price, Chemistry and Physics; Eugene Omasta, Mathematics; John B. Logan, Jr., Mathematics; Mrs. Jean N. Logan, English; Lamar Daniels, Physical Education; Susan Clark, Political Science and Psychology; Nancy Brunson, Biology; Robert Bicknell, Music; Tera Averett, English; Delano Anderson, Art; Betty Eudy, Business; Patricia Hurley, English; Martha Moon, Librarian; and Tommy Johnson, Physical Education and History.³⁸⁹

³⁸⁷ "Peters handles EJC business," *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 28, 1965.

³⁸⁸ "Summary of Status, Plans and Outlook Enterprise Junior College" July 26, 1965

³⁸⁹ "College Staff, Faculty Set," *The Enterprise Ledger*, July 13, 1980.



Figure 4.5. Original ESCC faculty and staff, 1965.

Enterprise State Community College's Pioneer administrators, faculty, and staff (seated from left to right): Betty Eudy, Nancy Brunson, Martha Moon, Tera Averett, June Flowers, Mary Cate, and Patricia Hurley. Standing from left to right: Jean Logan, Gene Daniels, Delano Anderson, Tommy Johnson, Robert Bicknell, Frederick Peters, President B. A. Forrester, Joseph Talmadge, John B. Logan Jr., Eugen Omasta, Leroy Price, Addie Middlebrooks, and Susan Clark.³⁹⁰

³⁹⁰ "Enterprise State Junior College 1965-1975. Enterprise Planned for Junior College Before The State Acted in 1963," *The Enterprise Ledger* August 29, 1975.

Table 4.2. ESCC's first faculty and staff.³⁹¹

Name	Title	Highest Degree	Previous Experience	Previous College Experience
Benjamin Abb Forrester	President	Master's Degree	Yes	No
Joseph D. Talmadge	Dean of Instruction	Master's Degree	Yes	No
Delano Anderson	Art Instructor	Master's Degree	Yes	No
Tera Averett	English Instructor	Master's Degree	Yes	Yes
Robert Bicknell	Music Instructor	Master's Degree	No	No
Nancy Brunson	Biology Instructor	Master's Degree	Yes	Yes
Mary Cate	Personal Secretary to the President	High School	No	No
Susan Clark	History/Psychology	Master's Degree	No	Yes
Gene Daniels	Physical Conditioning	Bachelor's Degree	Yes	No
Betty Eudy	Business Instructor	Master's Degree	Yes	No
June Flowers	Secretary-Bookkeeper	High School	No	No
Patricia Hurley	English Instructor	Master's Degree	No	No

³⁹¹ "Outstanding faculty selected for Junior College," *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 28, 1965; "Two secretaries keep college work moving while meeting people," *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 28, 1965; "Talmadge fills duties of dean," *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 28, 1965; *Enterprise State Junior College Institutional Self-Study for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools* (Enterprise:1973), 107-116; *Enterprise State Junior College Institutional Self-Study for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools* (Enterprise: 1984), 180.

Table 4.2. (continued)

Name	Title	Highest Degree	Previous Experience	Previous College Experience
Tommy Johnson	History, Physical Education Instructor and Head of Guidance Program	Master's Degree	Yes	No
John B. Logan Jr	Math Instructor	Master's Degree	No	No
Jean Logan	English Instructor	Master's Degree	Yes	No
Addie Middlebrooks	Publications Specialists	Bachelor's Degree	No	No
Martha Moon	Librarian	Master's Degree	Yes	No
Eugene Omasta	Math Instructor	Master's Degree	Yes	Yes
Frederick Peters	Business Manger	Master's Degree	No	Yes
Leroy Price	Chemistry Instructor	Master's Degree	Yes	No

These men and woman formed the first faculty, staff, and administration for Enterprise State Community College. While Forrester had nine months to get the College opened, the faculty started their first day on September 1, 1965, giving them only a month to prepare for the academic year, which started on September 30, 1965.³⁹² Within one month, these faculty members prepared classrooms, opened a bookstore, and registered the first students. According

³⁹² *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog, 1966-1967* (Enterprise, 1966), 11-12.

to their credentials, the pioneer members exemplified the nationwide experience junior college faculty held when entering postsecondary employment. According to Cohen and Brawer, in “the earliest two-year colleges and continuing well into the 1960s, instructors tended to have prior teaching experience in the secondary schools.”³⁹³ Out of fourteen new faculty members, ten had prior experience in secondary education. Out of the fourteen new faculty members, four had experience at the post-secondary level.

While the faculty’s experience included working in secondary education, they quickly learned other responsibilities while preparing for the opening of the College. They served the College outside the classroom. Members of the faculty constructed blackboards and bookshelves on the weekends and prepared for lessons in the classroom through the week.³⁹⁴ As *The Enterprise Ledger* noted,

Phi Beta Kappas have rolled up their sleeves and painted bookcases; cum laude graduates have hauled desks upstairs and arranged them in the classroom; the dean has opened dozens of boxes of textbooks; mathematics instructors have hammered and sawed while the music instructor sanded. Getting ready for school to open has been a team effort of a kind which probably will never be repeated again.³⁹⁵

This article provided a glimpse of the hard work done by the pioneer faculty during the first year. They lacked the conveniences of a permanent classroom, yet managed to get ready for the first day of school with only a month’s time to prepare. In hiring the first pioneer faculty at ESJC, Forrester stated, “Youth...enthusiasm...scholarship...these are the qualities I was

³⁹³ Cohen and Brawer, *American Community College*, 5th ed., 85.

³⁹⁴ “Math Instructors/Carpenters,” *The Southeast Sun*, May 2, 1990.

³⁹⁵ “Pioneering Spirit of College Faculty Prepares Quarters for First Classes,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 28, 1965.

looking for” in searching for the first faculty at Enterprise Junior College.³⁹⁶ Forrester continued reviewing applicants from a large applicant pool, and ensured all applicants met the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) requirements for accreditation. SACS required, and still requires, faculty members to hold a master’s degree with eighteen graduate hours in the discipline they teach.³⁹⁷ Forrester, along with Talmadge, ensured all faculty members met SACS requirements before they were hired. As Talmadge stated, “Almost all our faculty members have their master’s degrees in the subjects they are teaching, or if their actual degree is from a school of education, they have more than the required 18 hours of graduate credit in their subject field.”³⁹⁸ Forrester maintained he hired applicants based on professional credentials to ensure the College met SACS requirements.³⁹⁹ Mr. Robert Bicknell, Music Instructor and one of ESJC’s pioneer faculty members, remembered how he learned of an opening at ESJC:

During the spring of 1965, Mr. Forrester came to an Employee Recruiting Fair at Florida State University where I was completing my Master of Music degree. I had made appointments with several interviewers for that day, and I remember being impressed that the President of a college was serving as the representative for his institution. During the interview, Mr. Forrester described the new college in some detail, and when I asked him “What type of music program do you expect the college to have?” his reply was “What kind of music program can you create?” My answer included four aspects: 1) the early music courses for a music major, 2) music appreciation for General Education, 3) performing groups as a student activity that can go out into the local community as a representative of the college, and 4) a community chorus to involve local community

³⁹⁶ “Outstanding Faculty Selected for Junior College,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 28, 1965.

³⁹⁷ Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, “Faculty Credentials,” accessed September 11, 2015, <http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/081705/faculty%20credentials.pdf>.

³⁹⁸ “E.S.J.C. Officials Work For Accreditation in ’69,” *The Samson Ledger*. February 3, 1966.

³⁹⁹ Ibid.

singers. He evidently like my response, because he both offered me the job, and repeated the conversation many times over the next few years.⁴⁰⁰

As William Moore, Jr. noted, junior college professionals often entered junior colleges with limited backgrounds in higher education.⁴⁰¹ However, the lack of experience of the faculty and administration was the only limitations they endured from Forrester. While Alabama's public state junior college faculties had limited backgrounds in post-secondary education, Forrester encouraged the pioneer faculty to be creative in creating their lesson plans. Forrester realized inexperienced junior college teachers would lack experience in developing curriculum. Since public supported junior colleges were new in Alabama, developing a post-secondary curriculum would be a new task for the faculty. The faculty contained four members with post-secondary experience. Forrester hired ten faculty members with no previous higher education experience. Forrester allowed the faculty, with or without post-secondary experience, to create their own lesson plans. Bicknell was one of ten new hires who had never worked in higher education. Bicknell was hired and allowed to create his own music program while the College was established. Mrs. Nancy Brunson, Biology Instructor, who had experience teaching at the post-secondary level, agreed with Bicknell that she was not limited by Forrester when establishing her Biology class. In describing her first year at ESCC, Mrs. Brunson recalled,

I was the Biology Department when the school started. I was the only one. We offered what I could teach in the constraints I could teach it in. My lab was in the classroom I taught in. I taught Zoology that first semester and we had General Biology. We had field trips and went to see things out in the wide, wide world that made for a great teaching lesson. There was a packing house down the Geneva Highway and I would call and ask them to save me bits and pieces of eyeballs, hearts or whatever they had. We did alright.

⁴⁰⁰ Dr. Robert Bicknell, (first Music Instructor of the College), interview with author, May 18, 2013.

⁴⁰¹ William Moore, Jr. *Blind Man on a Freeway* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1971), 21-22. William Moore Jr. served as President of Seattle Central Community College and as a Professor of Education at Ohio State University.

We made do. You do with what you got. People have been teaching school for 1000 years without a whole lot of fancy stuff to teach school in. I had one blackboard.⁴⁰²

Even administrators experienced multiple roles during the first year. According to Dr. Joseph Talmadge, “I was the registrar and the Dean of the College then, and I also taught two classes in history.”⁴⁰³ Even President Forrester performed multiple tasks as the only employee for the first three weeks.⁴⁰⁴

The First Class—All Freshmen

Enterprise State Community College enrolled 256 students for its first quarter, September 30 - December 21, 1965.⁴⁰⁵ All students were freshmen, having never attended a prior institution of higher learning, and all were white. Enterprise State Community College did not admit African Americans in its first class, but Forrester used local funds to assist four African Americans with enrollment in Alabama State University (Montgomery), and Alabama A&M University (Huntsville), both Historically Black Colleges and Universities.⁴⁰⁶ Forrester would have met resistance from the community if the churches, used as temporary facilities, would have housed African Americans during the first year. In a time when Alabama resisted integration, Forrester did not want any problems with the local community over integration.⁴⁰⁷

⁴⁰² Nancy Brunson, (first Biology Instructor of College) interview with author, May 5, 2015.

⁴⁰³ “President Has Invested a Lifetime at Institution,” *The Southeast Sun*, May 2, 1990.

⁴⁰⁴ Roy Shoffner, *Dateline: Enterprise* (Tallahassee: Rose Printing Company, 1987), 83.

⁴⁰⁵ *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog 1965-1966*. (Enterprise, AL: 1965), 6-7.

⁴⁰⁶ Shoffner, *Dateline: Enterprise*, 83-84.

⁴⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

The first freshman class benefited from Governor George Wallace's pledge to put a junior college or trade school within reach of every student in the state. As stated in the Enterprise State Junior College 1966-1967 Catalog, "Enterprise State is part of a trend which is bringing higher education closer home and making it less expensive to students throughout the United States. It came into being as a result of legislation enacted by the 1963 Special Education Session of the Alabama Legislature called by Governor George C. Wallace."⁴⁰⁸ If needed, students received free transportation from five buses running five express routes. The buses, driven by enrolled students, ran routes throughout southeast Alabama. At the time, Fred Peters, Business Manager stated, "routes were determined by the number of students from each area who applied for admission to the college. The buses will travel down the main street of each community through which they pass."⁴⁰⁹ Students living within a thirty-five to forty mile radius of the College received free transportation to school.⁴¹⁰ The buses traveled through Coffee, Dale, Geneva, and Covington Counties.

⁴⁰⁸ *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog 1966-1967*, (Enterprise: 1966), 11.

⁴⁰⁹ "Routes for Junior College Buses Announced; Start Running Thurs.," *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 28, 1965. The first bus drivers were Wayne Napier, Joe Paul Spikes, Jack Ausley, Mike Allen Harp, and Drexel Johnson.

⁴¹⁰ "Junior College Gets Five New Buses," *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 25, 1965.

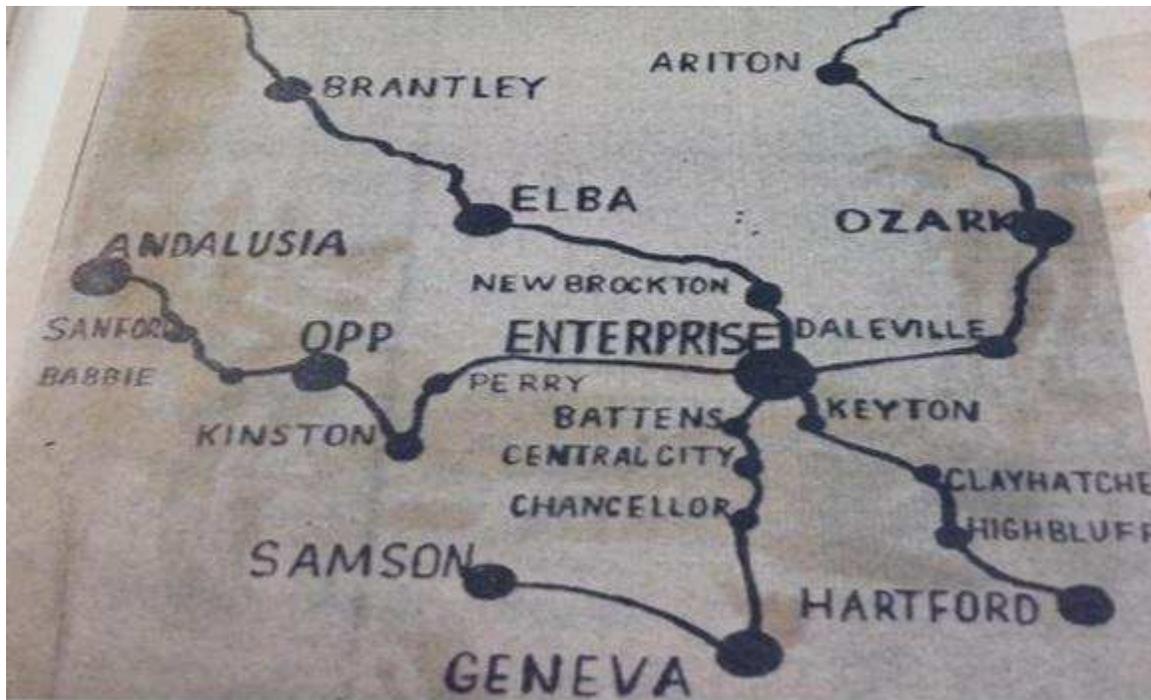


Figure 4.6. ESCC bus routes, 1965-1966.⁴¹¹

By the time the first classes started on September 30, 1965, 256 students attended the College. The College provided access to students who had not previously had an opportunity to attend an institution of higher learning. As Dr. Ernest R. Knox, Consultant in Junior College Education in the Alabama State Department of Education noted,

The students who come to the junior colleges will be those who, perhaps, in many cases would not be financially able to go to a senior college; therefore, we believe that the expenses should be kept to a minimum. Many of the students that come to us will be unsure of what they want to be or do; therefore, guidance and counseling will have a large place in this school. Others will come who have not done well in high school because of illness or some other reason and the junior college will provide a place where they can have a second chance for an education.⁴¹²

⁴¹¹ "Junior College Gets Five New Buses," *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 25, 1965.

⁴¹² Ernest R. Knox, "Alabama Plans and Programs for Junior College Education," speech, Alabama Association of School Administrators, Auburn AL. June 22, 1964. Dr. Knox served as

Dr. Knox provided an excellent description for the first freshman class attending Enterprise State Community College. Forrester echoed Dr. Knox's description of the first class in *The Enterprise Ledger*:

Among the prospective students are housewives who welcome the chance to continue their education; young men and women out of school a few years who now see that they cannot make a living with only a high school diploma; honor graduates who could not afford the high cost of living away from home and attending a senior institution all four years; boys and girls who scored too low on tests to get into senior colleges and universities; married men with families to support and boys and girls who are not yet ready to make the transition from high school to a large, impersonal campus.⁴¹³

While the majority of the first students graduated from high schools in Southeast Alabama, Forrester recognized the wide range of applicants the College received, including those from outside Alabama. He announced, "Besides students from 25 Alabama counties, 65 students list high schools in 24 different states, 13 received high school equivalency certificates, and seven were graduated in foreign countries."⁴¹⁴ Forrester also commented on students' future plans: "...the largest number [of applicants] want to take courses that will allow them to enter a liberal arts college at the junior level."⁴¹⁵ On September 27, 1965 college registration began with Danny Kelley becoming the first student to register.⁴¹⁶ During registration, Forrester received two "surprises" about the first class. First, early predictions indicated more females than males,

Consultant in Junior College Education to the Alabama State Department of Education (April-October 1964), and as President of Northeast Alabama State Junior College (1964-1982).

⁴¹³ "54 Students from County Apply at Enterprise College," *The Geneva County Reaper*, August 25, 1965.

⁴¹⁴ Ibid.

⁴¹⁵ Ibid.

⁴¹⁶ *ESJC Successful People*, (Enterprise, 1990), 26.

but the first class had 96 females and 160 males.⁴¹⁷ The enrollment patterns resembled general enrollment trends of the 1960s in which males attended college more than females, a trend that lasted until 1978.⁴¹⁸ The second surprise Forrester received was the number of non-commuters attending the College. As mentioned in *The Samson Ledger* article, “Enterprise College Begins Counseling Prospective Students,” Forrester explained that twelve students ranging from Ashford (Southeast Alabama) to Phenix City (Central East Alabama) were living in Enterprise instead of commuting.⁴¹⁹ Forrester had not planned for students to live off campus.

As the 1965-1966 *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog* stated, “Students are encouraged to live at home and commute.”⁴²⁰ By commuting, students would reduce living expenses while attending the temporary facilities. Forrester wanted to reduce difficulties, for both students and staff, during the first year. Forrester realized the first year would be filled with challenges. As Forrester stated, “Enterprise State Junior College is enjoying a very fine freshman year in spite of the fact that classes are being held in temporary and inadequate facilities.”⁴²¹ Forrester warned of difficulties, but reminded students and staff that “three modern permanent college buildings are under construction and look at the progress.”⁴²²

⁴¹⁷ “Enterprise College Begins Counseling Prospective Students,” *The Samson Ledger*, September 16, 1965; “Outnumbered,” *The Dothan Eagle*, October 17, 1965.

⁴¹⁸ Cohen and Brawer, *American Community College* 5th ed., 52.

⁴¹⁹ “Enterprise College Begins Counseling Prospective Students,” *The Samson Ledger*, September 16, 1965.

⁴²⁰ *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog 1965-1966* (Enterprise) 1965, 9.

⁴²¹ *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog 1966-1967*, (Enterprise: 1966), 2.

⁴²² “Enterprise College President Claims Educational Revolution,” *The Montgomery Advertiser*, September 7, 1965.

Progress was made, but students experienced difficulties while attending. While attending the College in temporary classrooms, students struggled with the campus location along with the outside noises while in the classroom. As a member of the first class, David Chalker recalled, “We were real excited about getting into actual classrooms, and not having the distraction of cars and people going by on the streets. It seemed more like college when we were moved from downtown to the campus.”⁴²³ The College administrators, faculty and staff tried to provide a collegiate environment and encouraged student involvement. The College administrators, faculty, and staff assisted the first class with campus involvement by forming a Student Government Association, publishing the *Anthonomus*, the College yearbook, and crowning the first Miss ESJC while attending classes in temporary facilities.⁴²⁴

⁴²³ “Homecoming at ESJC: Chalker Remembers First Classes Downtown,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, February 14, 1990. Dr. David Chalker was a member of the first class and first graduating class at Enterprise State Junior College in 1967. In 1976, he returned to ESJC as Director of Institutional Studies. In 1991, he was promoted to Dean of Students, a position he held until his retirement in 2008.

⁴²⁴ “Student Gov’t Being Organized by EJC; First Dance-Tea Planned,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, November 4, 1965; “Dorethy Tew Wins Beauty Crown at ESJC,” *The Geneva County Reaper*, February 17, 1966. “ESJC Student Government Association Elects New Officers,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, February 24, 1966; Enterprise State Junior College, *Anthonomus 1966*. (Enterprise: 1966), 85.



Figure 4.7. First SGA appointed leaders.

From left to right: Ronnie Donaldson, Vice-President; Mel Magidson, President, and Anne Shostrom, Secretary-Treasurer, were the first-appointed SGA officers for ESJC. These students were selected by the faculty to prepare an election for the entire student body to elect a Student Government Association.⁴²⁵



Figure 4.8. First SGA elected officers and members.

From top to bottom, left to right: Sponsor Gene Daniels; Amelia Session, Secretary; George Landingham, President; Ronnie Hatcher; Joey Ferguson, Vice-President; Leslie Mason; David Chalker; Judy Smith; Marilyn Arnold; and Dorethy DeVaughn, Treasurer. The First Elected Student Government Association.⁴²⁶

⁴²⁵ *Anthonomus* (1966), 67-91.

⁴²⁶ *Ibid.*



Figure 4.9. The first Miss ESJC and her court.

First row, left to right: Top Four Beauties: Linda Smith, Dorethy DeVaughn, Miss ESJC Dorethy Tew, Beverly Chancey, and Rosemary Brannon. Second row, left to right: Beauties Judy Bass, Marcia Tomberlin, June Newsom, Vivian Moates, Amelia Sessions. Third row, left to right: Linda Lewis, Ann Shostrom, Judy Smith, Rosemary Brannon, and Leslie Mason.⁴²⁷

Even without permanent facilities, class members realized the importance of the opportunity to attend a public two year institution, an opportunity not given to previous Southeast Alabama high school graduates. The 1966 ESJC Yearbook, the *Anthonomus*, summed up the students' first year:

There were definite inconveniences, but we quickly discovered that knowledge can be gained above a furniture store as readily as it can in a million dollar building. What we lacked in facilities, our instructors more than made up in ability and personal interest in the students as scholars and individuals. We were the first, and that in itself makes our class outstanding. We found that we must lay the foundations of a new college,

⁴²⁷ Ibid.

foundations that would decide what our college would be and what it would stand for in years to come. This has been a year of construction of buildings. The next years will also be years of building- the building of scholarship, integrity, and traditions. The manner in which we meet this task will decide whether or not our class and our school will be truly outstanding.⁴²⁸

While the first class received an opportunity to attend a two-year college, many still struggled with expenses. Enterprise State Community College received federal assistance allowing students to work at the college while attending. Members of the first class benefited from the federal government investing in the nation's future through the federal work-study program.

Federal Work Study Helped Enrollment

One of the biggest resources Enterprise's first students utilized was the Economic Opportunity Act. According to President Lyndon B. Johnson, in speaking about The Economic Opportunity Act (EOA) of 1964, "Today for the first time in all the history of the human race, a great nation is able to make and is willing to make a commitment to eradicate poverty among its people."⁴²⁹ Title I of the EOA focused on three components: Part A consisted of Job Corps, Part B contained the Work Training Programs, and Part C provided the Work-Study Program. President Johnson's goal to eliminate poverty spoke directly towards improving access to education. President Johnson continued, "We will work with them [Americans] through our communities all over the country to develop comprehensive community action programs—with

⁴²⁸ *Enterprise State Junior College the Anthonomus 1966*. (Taylor Publishing Company 1966), 8. The Anthonomus is the genus name for Boll Weevil. SGA President George Landingham is credit with the year book name.

⁴²⁹ Public Paper of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, "Remarks upon signing the Economic Opportunity Act," Washington D.C., August 20 1964, accessed April 29, 2015, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=26452>.

remedial education, with job training, with retraining....”⁴³⁰ Part C of Title I of the Economic Opportunity Act, the Work Study Program, focused on allowing students to work on college campuses to receive money towards their education. The EOA wanted to, “stimulate and promote the part-time employment of students in institutions of higher education who are from low-income families and are in need of the earnings from such employment to pursue courses of study at such institutions.”⁴³¹

Forrester explained the new federal program in *The Enterprise Ledger*: “Under the program, students will be paid \$1.25 per hour for assisting college staff members. No student may work more than 15 hours per week, and the work must be related to his college objectives.”⁴³² Enterprise State Community College received \$5, 940 in work-study funds.⁴³³ Colleges seeking to increase their work-study program funds could add to the value by providing additional funds. As Section 125 of the EOA stated, “the institution may pay its share of the compensation of a student employed under a work-study program.”⁴³⁴ Enterprise State Community College provided an additional \$660.00 towards the work-study program. The total allocation for work-study for the first quarter was \$6,600.00.⁴³⁵ During the first year, the College

⁴³⁰ Ibid.

⁴³¹ Public Law 88-452, Aug. 20, 1964, “Economic Opportunity Act,” accessed May 3, 2015, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-78/pdf/STATUTE-78-Pg508.pdf>.

⁴³² “Federal Grant to Junior College Aids Student Work-Study Program.” *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 25, 1965.

⁴³³ Ibid.

⁴³⁴ Public Law 88-452, Aug. 20, 1964, “Economic Opportunity Act,” 516, accessed May 3, 2015, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-78/pdf/STATUTE-78-Pg508.pdf>.

⁴³⁵ “Federal Grant to Junior College Aids Student Work-Study Program.” *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 25, 1965.

received two additional donations of \$1,000.00 each by the local Lions Club and the Rotary Club.⁴³⁶ Forrester used the donations to receive additional matching work-study funds. Forrester planned to provide work-study assistance throughout the year. He stated, “identical requests have been made for the winter and spring quarters, which if approved will provide a fund of \$19,800 for the 1965-66 school year.”⁴³⁷ Thirty-two students benefited from the Economic Opportunity Act work-study program. Students involved in the program worked in different assigned areas; ten students were placed in clerical positions, three worked in food services, two provided assistance with grading papers, four assisted in labs, five students worked in the library, six worked in maintenance, and two served as receptionists.⁴³⁸ The Economic Opportunity Act paved the way for future financial assistance under the work-study program. The program proved to be so successful that President Lyndon B. Johnson increased federal work study opportunities by signing “the first federal legislation centered explicitly for higher education,” the Higher Education Act of 1965.⁴³⁹

The Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) provided unprecedented higher education opportunities for students seeking postsecondary education. Even with the chance of assistance

⁴³⁶ “School Not Ready, But Scholarships Available.” *The Montgomery Advertiser*, August 25, 1965.

⁴³⁷ “Federal Grant to Junior College Aids Student Work-Study Program.” *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 25, 1965.

⁴³⁸ Public Law 88-452, Aug. 20, 1964, “Economic Opportunity Act,” 516, accessed May 3, 2015, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-78/pdf/STATUTE-78-Pg508.pdf>.

⁴³⁹ William Zumeta, et al., *Financing American Higher Education in the Era of Globalization* (Cambridge: Harvard Education Press, 2012), 65-66.

from the Economic Opportunity Act, President Johnson realized many high school graduates still failed to attend college. When signing the Higher Education Act, Johnson stated,

Last May, 2,700,000 boys and girls graduated from all the high schools in America—2,700,000. One million, four hundred thousand—about half of them—went on to college. But almost as many—1,300,000—dropped out and never started college. This bill, which we will shortly make into law, will provide scholarships and loans and work opportunities to 1 million of that 1.3 million that did not get to go on to college. And when you, the first year, with the first bill, take care of 1 million of that 1.3 million through this legislation, we are hopeful that the State and the local governments, and the local employers and the local loan funds, can somehow take care of the other 300,000.⁴⁴⁰

President Johnson relied on the assistance from the states and local governments to ensure educational opportunities were provided for all Americans. He did have an ally in Alabama Governor George C. Wallace. While President Johnson and Governor Wallace failed to agree on segregation and civil rights, they both agreed higher education provided opportunities for all citizens to improve their lives. Governor Wallace was criticized for building so many junior colleges, but as he stated at Enterprise’s Junior College Groundbreaking Ceremony on July 21, “It is not right to turn an Alabamian away from a state supported college because there is not enough space.”⁴⁴¹ Governor Wallace offered assistance to increase higher education access at a low cost to students. According to the *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog 1965-1966*, tuition was \$44.00 per quarter.⁴⁴² As Governor Wallace stated, “On September 1, Alabama will have the number one school system in the South, except for Florida, but on the lowest per person

⁴⁴⁰ Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, “Remarks at Southwest Texas State College upon Signing the Higher Education Act of 1965,” San Marcos, Texas, November 8, 1965, accessed April 30, 2015, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=27356&st=&st1=>.

⁴⁴¹ Addie Middlebrooks, “Governor Wallace Breaks Ground for New Enterprise Jr. College,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, July 21, 1965.

⁴⁴² *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog, 1965-1966*, 11.

tax of any state in the nation.”⁴⁴³ Access was increased, but students still needed financial assistance to attend college. President Johnson’s Work Study Program helped assist with financial needs.

Name of the College

On December 3, 1964, community leaders throughout the Wiregrass listened to Forrester address the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce Banquet on the progress of Enterprise’s junior college.⁴⁴⁴ Forrester outlined the progress being made towards the College’s opening:

We can have the best junior college in Alabama... one you will be satisfied with. You have done the best job of any community in the state to get one located here. I challenge each of you to continue to the fine work as we go forward with the Enterprise Junior College.⁴⁴⁵

Also discussed during the meeting was the name of the College. Mr. Vernon St. John, Superintendent of Opp City Schools stated, “We have been accustomed to referring to this as the Enterprise Junior College. Why change now?”⁴⁴⁶ It was unanimously agreed that the name of the College would be Enterprise Junior College.

One of the first problems Forrester encountered occurred on September 2, 1965. While reading a newspaper in a barber chair he learned the State Board of Education had changed the

⁴⁴³ Addie Middlebrooks, “Governor Wallace Breaks Ground for New Enterprise Jr. College,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, July 21, 1965.

⁴⁴⁴ “Forrester Gives Bird’s Eye View of Progress on E’prise Junior College,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, December 8, 1964.

⁴⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁴⁶ Ibid.

name of the institution, Enterprise Junior College, which he had promoted for nine months, to George Washington State Junior College.⁴⁴⁷ Forrester had received a letter dated December 11, 1964, which acknowledged the name as Enterprise Junior College. The college "was automatically Enterprise Junior College unless a request for some other name should be made."⁴⁴⁸ A name change caused a great uproar among community leaders. The community citizens invested \$65,000.00 for the purchase of the land; the local community civic leaders donated scholarship monies, and had spent years trying to provide a junior college to the area. The community citizens felt that they were the owners of the College. As investors in Governor Wallace's higher education plan, local citizens were upset when they did not get to provide input into the College's name.

⁴⁴⁷ "Junior College Named Popped on Community," *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 2, 1965.

⁴⁴⁸ Ibid. See also Dr. Austin R. Meadows letter to Mr. B. A. Forrester, December 11, 1964. Available at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (Montgomery, AL.), Alabama Governor (1963-1967: Wallace), "Educational Department Junior Colleges and Trade Schools. Folder 3 of 3, July 9, 1963-September 29, 1966. Container Folder 16; SG22386.

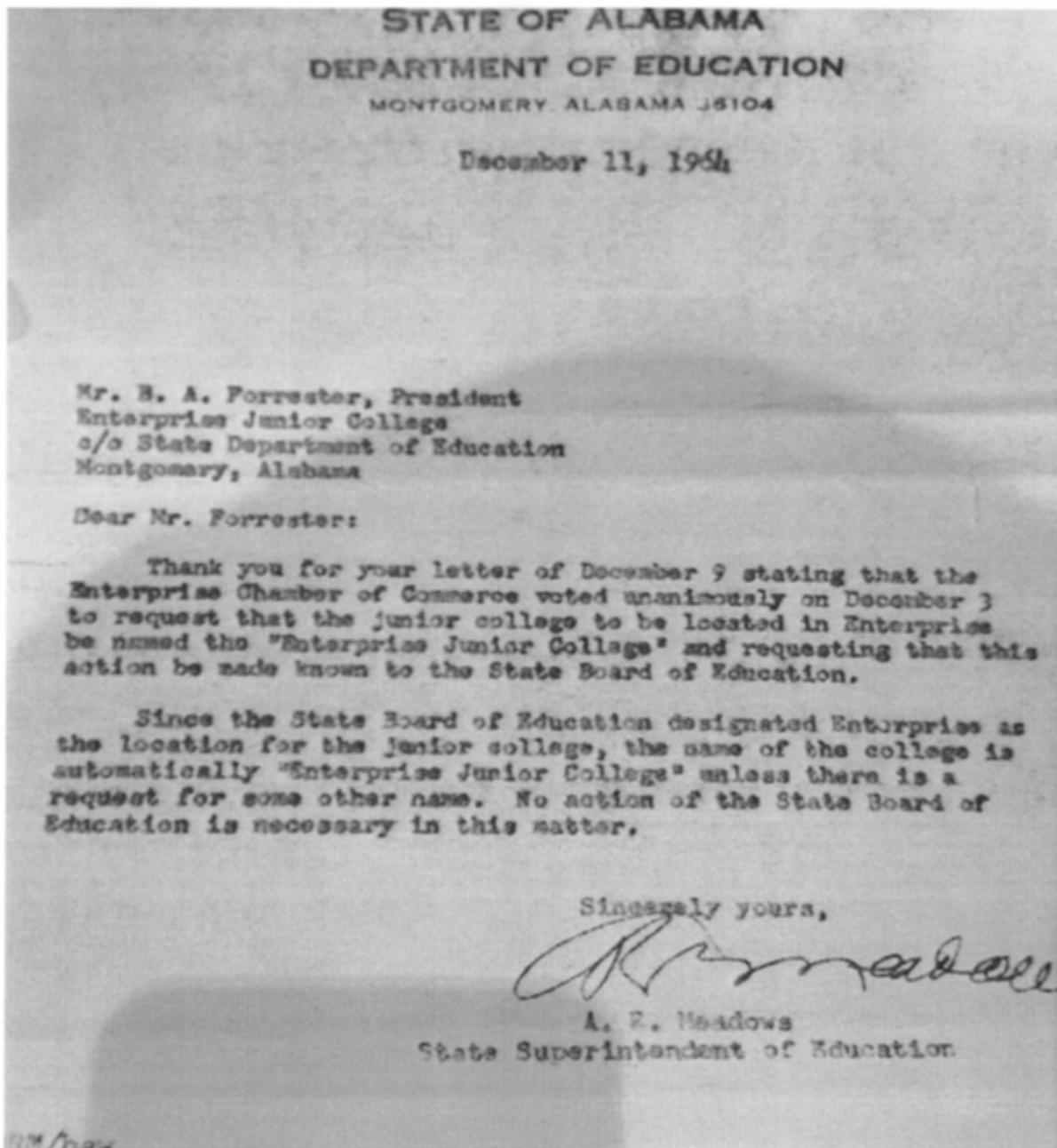


Figure 4.10. Letter from Austin Meadows to Benjamin A. Forrester, December 11, 1964.⁴⁴⁹

⁴⁴⁹ Dr. Austin R. Meadows letter to Mr. B. A. Forrester, December 11, 1964. Available at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (Montgomery, AL.), Alabama Governor (1963-1967: Wallace), "Educational Department Junior Colleges and Trade Schools. Folder 3 of 3, July 9, 1963-September 29, 1966. Container Folder 16; SG22386.

Citizens were upset to learn Governor Wallace and the Alabama State Board of Education named the two-year colleges after “southern patriots.” According to “History Given Eye in Naming State Schools,” in *The Florence Times*, “Gov. George Wallace announced the names of the schools on Monday, August 30, 1965. Six of them are named for Confederate military men, two for Confederate statesmen, four for Revolutionary era figures, and the remainder for later military and political men, ranging from John C. Calhoun to Rankin Fite, the legislator most active in school legislation.”⁴⁵⁰

⁴⁵⁰ “History Given Eye in Naming State Schools,” *The Florence Times*, August 31, 1965.

Table 4.3. New two-year colleges announced by George C. Wallace, August 30, 1965.⁴⁵¹

Location and type of two year college in Alabama	Gov. Wallace Announced Name	Title for the name of the two-year school	Outcome Name in 1965	Present College Name in 2015
Anniston, AL Technical College	Harry M. Ayers	Newspaper Editor for the <i>Anniston Star</i> . Also was a member of the Alabama State Board of Education for 25 years.	Became Harry M. Ayers State Trade School, 1965-1973. In 1973 Harry M. Ayers State Trade School became Harry M. Ayers Technical College.	Harry M. Ayers State Technical College merged with Gadsden State Community College to form Gadsden State Community College (2003). *In 1985 The Alabama State Board of Education merged Alabama Technical College, former Alabama School of Trades; Gadsden State Technical Institute; and the Gadsden State Junior College to form Gadsden State Community College.
Childersburg, AL Technical College	J. E. B. Stuart	Confederate General	Became Nunnelley State Technical College after N. F. Nunnelley, an educator who served as Principal of Holt High School.	Nunnelley State Technical College merged with Alexander City State Junior College to form Central Alabama Community College (February 23, 1989).

⁴⁵¹ “History Given Eye in Naming State Schools,” *The Florence Times*, August 31, 1965.

Table 4.3. (continued)

Location and type of two year college in Alabama	Gov. Wallace Announced Name	Title for the name of the two-year school	Outcome Name in 1965	Present College Name in 2015
<p>Jackson-DeKalb County, AL</p> <p>Junior College in Rainsville, AL.</p>	<p>Stonewall Jackson</p>	<p>Confederate General</p>	<p>Became Northeast Alabama State JuniorCollege</p>	<p>Northeast Alabama Community College (1996).</p>
<p>Phil Campbell, AL</p> <p>Junior College</p>	<p>Nathan Bedford Forrest</p>	<p>Confederate General</p>	<p>Became Northwest State Junior College</p>	<p>Northwest State Junior College merged with Northwest Alabama State Tech. College to form Northwest Alabama Community College (1989). Muscle Shoals State Tech. College merged with the Tusculum Campus of Northwest Alabama State Junior College to form Shoals Comm College (1989). Northwest-Shoals Community College formed when Shoals Comm.College merged with the Phil Campbell campus of Northwest Alabama Community College (1993).</p>

Table 4.3. (continued)

Location and type of two year college	Gov. Wallace Announced Name	Title for the name of the two-year school	Outcome Name in 1965	Present College Name in 2015
Muscle Shoals, AL Technical College	Joe Wheeler	Confederate General, Congressman and U.S. Army General	Became Joe Wheeler State Trade School (1966). By 1973, Joe Wheeler State Trade School was renamed to Muscle Shoals State Tech. College.	Muscle Shoals State Technical College merged with Northwest-Shoals Community College to form Northwest State Junior College to form Northwest-Shoals Community College (1993).
Enterprise, AL Junior College	George Washington State Junior College	Commander of the Revolutionary Army and first President of the United States	Became Enterprise State Junior College	Enterprise State Junior College Merged with the Alabama Aviation Center in Ozark and Mobile of George C. Wallace Community College-Dothan to form Enterprise State Community College (2003).
Birmingham, AL Junior College	Thomas Jefferson State Junior College	Third President of the United States, first Secretary of State, author of the Declaration of Independence	Became Jefferson State Junior College	Jefferson State Junior College became Jefferson State Community College (February 23, 1989).
Brewton, AL Junior College	Jefferson Davis State Junior College	Mississippi Senator, Secretary of War and President of the Confederate States.	Became Jefferson Davis State Junior College	Jefferson Davis State Junior College merged with Atmore State Technical Institute to become Jefferson Davis Community College (December 13, 1990).

Table 4.3. (continued)

Location and type of two year college in Alabama	Gov. Wallace Announced Name	Title for the name of the two-year school	Outcome Name in 1965	Present College Name in 2015
Thomasville, AL Technical College	Richard Pearson Hobson	Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy. Also served in the United States House of Representatives from Alabama.	Became Hobson State Technical College	Hobson State Technical College merged with Patrick Henry State Junior College to form Alabama Southern Community College (August 22, 1991).
Selma, AL Technical College	William Rufus King	Vice-President of the United States from Alabama, 1857-1861.	Became William Rufus King State Vocational Technical School (1965-1973).	In 1973 the College was renamed George C. Wallace Community College-Selma. In 1990 the College was renamed Wallace Community College-Selma
Monroeville, AL Junior College	Patrick Henry State Junior College	American patriot during the American Revolution. He was also the first Governor of Virginia.	Became Patrick Henry State Junior College	Patrick Henry State Junior College merged with Hobson State Technical College to form Alabama Southern Community College (August 22, 1991).

Table 4.3. (continued)

Location and type of two year college in Alabama	Gov. Wallace Announced Name	Title for the name of the two-year school	Outcome Name in 1965	Present College Name in 2015
Decatur, AL Junior College	John C. Calhoun State Junior College	Politician who served as a national Senator for South Carolina, Secretary of War, Secretary of State, as Vice-President (1825-1832) under John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. He was a devout state rights believer and encouraged states to nullify federal laws states felt were unconstitutional.	Became John C. Calhoun State Technical Junior College and Technical School.	John C. Calhoun State Technical Junior College and Technical School was renamed to Calhoun Community College (1973).
Faulkner, AL Junior College	William Lowndes Yancey	Southern politician who served in the United States Congress. He was a devout states right leader and served as a Senator in the Confederate States of America under President Jefferson Davis.	Became William Lowndes Yancey State Junior College	In 1973 William Lowndes Yancey State Junior College became James H. Faulkner State Junior College. In 1992 James H. Faulkner State Junior College became Faulkner State Community College.
Opp, AL Technical College	Gen. Douglas MacArthur	Military hero who was involved in WWI, WWII, and Korea.	MacArthur State Technical Institute	Merged with Lurleen B. Wallace State Junior College to form Lurleen B. Wallace Community College on January 23, 2003.

Table 4.3. (continued)

Location and type of two year college in Alabama	Gov. Wallace Announced Name	Title for the name of the two-year school	Outcome Name in 1965	Present College Name in 2015
Opelika, AL Technical College	Robert Lee Bullard	WWI Army General from Lee County, Alabama.	Became Opelika State Technical College	Merged with Southern Union State Junior College to form Southern Union Community College on August 12, 1993.
Bessemer, AL Technical College	John Pelham	Confederate Artillery Officer in the Confederate Army.	Became Bessemer State Technical College	Merged with Lawson State Junior College to form Lawson State Community College on July 1, 2005.
Wadley, AL Junior College	Nathan Hale	American Revolution soldier executed by the British for being a spy.	Southern Union State Junior College	Southern Union State Junior College merged with Opelika State Tech. College to form Southern Union Community College on August 12, 1993.
Marion, AL	Rankin Fite	Alabama Legislator who served in the Alabama Senate and the Alabama House of Representatives. He is mostly known for presenting the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Acts (ACTS.92, 93, & 94) which created a system of junior colleges and trade schools in Alabama.	Became Northwest Alabama State Technical College	Northwest Alabama State Technical College merged with Northwest State Junior college's Phil Campbell Campus in 1989 to become Northwest Alabama Community College. In 1993, the Hamilton Campus of Northwest Alabama Community College merged with Beville State Community College.

Table 4.3. (continued)

Location and type of two year college in Alabama	Gov. Wallace Announced Name	Title for the name of the two-year school	Outcome Name in 1965	Present College Name in 2015
Eufaula, AL Technical College	Chauncey Sparks	Former Governor of Alabama (1943-1947)	Became Sparks State Technical College	Sparks State Technical College merged with George C. Wallace State Community College to form Wallace Community College (1999).
Huntsville, AL.	J.F. Drake	Served for 35 years as President of Alabama A&M University	Originally opened on September 4, 1962 as Huntsville State Vocational Technical School. Wallace announced on August 30, 1965, the name changed to recognize Dr. Joseph Fanning Drake.	J.F. Drake State Community Technical College

Table 4.3. (continued)

Location and type of two year college	Gov. Wallace Announced Name	Title for the name of the two-year school	Outcome Name in 1965	Present College Name in 2015
Tuscaloosa, AL	George Washington Carver	Scientist/agriculturalist who gained fame for his many uses for peanuts. He spent his life assisting farmers with improving agricultural products most notable peanuts while working at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama.	<p>Became Tuscaloosa State Trade School.</p> <p>*In 1961, the Alabama State Board of Education opened Carver State Technical College. The author could not find any evidence of the segregated trade school in Mobile named after George Washington Carver.</p>	Tuscaloosa State Trade School, renamed C. A. Fredd State Technical College in 1976 to honor Mr. C. A. Fredd, the first president of the College. In 1994 C. A. Fredd State Technical College merged with Shelton State Community College.
Montgomery, AL	Booker T. Washington	Civil Rights Leader and Educator who established Tuskegee University, in Tuskegee Alabama.	Became H. Council Trenholm State Technical College, named after H. Council Trenholm who served as President of Alabama State University in Montgomery, AL	H. Council Trenholm State Technical College merged with John M. Patterson State Technical College to become H. Council Trenholm State Technical College in April 2000.

As Joe Harris, President of Enterprise's Lion Club stated, "The entire community has been stunned by this action [naming the College George Washington State Junior College] as we had understood the official name had been accepted as Enterprise Junior College. This was the name discussed and adopted by local community leaders and leaders from neighboring communities in a meeting sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce about a year ago."⁴⁵² Harris was not the only community leader to express his disappointment over the name of the College. Clayton Metcalf, President of the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce and one of the local leaders who donated money for a junior college in Enterprise voiced his concerns by stating, "We [the area] were quite shocked to note in the newspaper where the Enterprise Junior College was to be called the "George Washington State Junior College." Many of our citizens appear to be quite "upset" about this re-naming."⁴⁵³ Both Metcalf and Harris were honored to name the College after George Washington but as Metcalf noted, "Needless to say, we are all proud of the 'Father of our Country,' but do not feel that George Washington Junior College would contribute anything to our college, or our area, whereas the name Enterprise Junior College would of itself, locate the school and the area which it will serve."⁴⁵⁴

⁴⁵² Joe Harris, President of Enterprise Lions Club, personal correspondence with Governor George C. Wallace, September 11, 1965. Available at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (Montgomery, AL.), Alabama Governor (1963-1967: Wallace). "Educational Department Junior Colleges and Trade Schools, Folder 3 of 3, July 9, 1963- September 29, 1966. Container Folder 16; SG22386.

⁴⁵³ Clayton Metcalf, President of the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, personal correspondence with Governor George C. Wallace, September 7, 1965. Available at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (Montgomery, AL.) Alabama Governor (1963-1967: Wallace). "Educational Department Junior Colleges and Trade Schools. Folder 3 of 3, July 9, 1963- September 29, 1966. Container Folder 16; SG22386.

⁴⁵⁴ Ibid.

Local political leaders heard from the local citizens. Senator Ray Lolley, who supported the Trade Schools and Junior College Authority Acts, was disappointed in the changing of the name. Lolley learned of the name George Washington Junior College through the local newspapers. He stated, “this is a state institution, operated by the state, and the state and the State Board has the authority to name it as they see fit.”⁴⁵⁵ Local leaders were upset, but did not want to upset the governor by requesting the name change.

Metcalf and Harris both expressed sincere appreciation for Wallace establishing the two-year system. However, Metcalf continued expressing support for Wallace by stating,

I am sure that you are aware of our feelings for you in this area. We are happy that our new road by the Junior College has been named “George C. Wallace Drive,” and we are more than pleased that all of the administration buildings of the schools will bear your name. Had it been for Napier Field (Dothan, Alabama) having already been named for you [George C. Wallace State Technical and Junior College], we would without a doubt have asked that our school here be named for you.⁴⁵⁶

The Alabama State Board of Education Minutes, dated November 2, 1965, note that George Washington State Junior College is the name of the junior college located in Enterprise, Alabama.⁴⁵⁷ However, an asterisk is designated by the college’s name, which stated, “Subject to

⁴⁵⁵ “Junior College Named Popped on Community,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 2, 1965.

⁴⁵⁶ Clayton Metcalf, President of the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, personal correspondence with Governor George C. Wallace, September 7, 1965. Available at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (Montgomery, AL.) Alabama Governor (1963-1967: Wallace).

“Educational Department Junior Colleges and Trade Schools. Folder 3 of 3, July 9, 1963-September 29, 1966. Container Folder 16; SG22386.

George C. Wallace State Technical and Junior College was named after Governor Wallace’s father, George Corley Wallace.

See also: “College named for Wallace,” *The Florence Times*, 20 December, 1970. p. 15.

⁴⁵⁷ Minutes of the Alabama State Board of Education, November 2 1965, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Montgomery, AL.

revision.”⁴⁵⁸ The author believes the asterisk indicates the Alabama State Board of Education had not unanimously agreed to name the College after George Washington. Wallace had responded to Metcalf’s letter, stating,

I am sure the State Board of Education wished to please people in the locality regarding the name, and I will certainly delay the naming of this college at this time. The whole idea was to try to name these colleges after some of our great patriots, in view of the fact that the liberal socialistic trend is to play down patriotism and love of country. However, I can certainly understand the desire of the people to have it known as the Enterprise Junior College.⁴⁵⁹

The Alabama State Board of Education minutes, dated November 2, 1965, the same day the College name was noted “Subject to revision,” stated that George Washington State Junior College was renamed Enterprise State Junior College.⁴⁶⁰ It appeared the Alabama State Board of Education wanted George Washington’s name to be a part of Enterprise State Junior College. The Alabama State Board of Education Minutes designated a building to be named in honor of George Washington.⁴⁶¹ However, Enterprise State Community College does not have a George Washington Building.

⁴⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁵⁹ Governor George C. Wallace, personal correspondence with, Clayton Metcalf, President of the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, September 14, 1965. Available at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (Montgomery, AL.) Alabama Governor (1963-1967: Wallace). “Educational Department Junior Colleges and Trade Schools. Folder 3 of 3, July 9, 1963- September 29, 1966.Container Folder 16; SG22386.

⁴⁶⁰ Ibid, 268-269.

⁴⁶¹ Ibid.

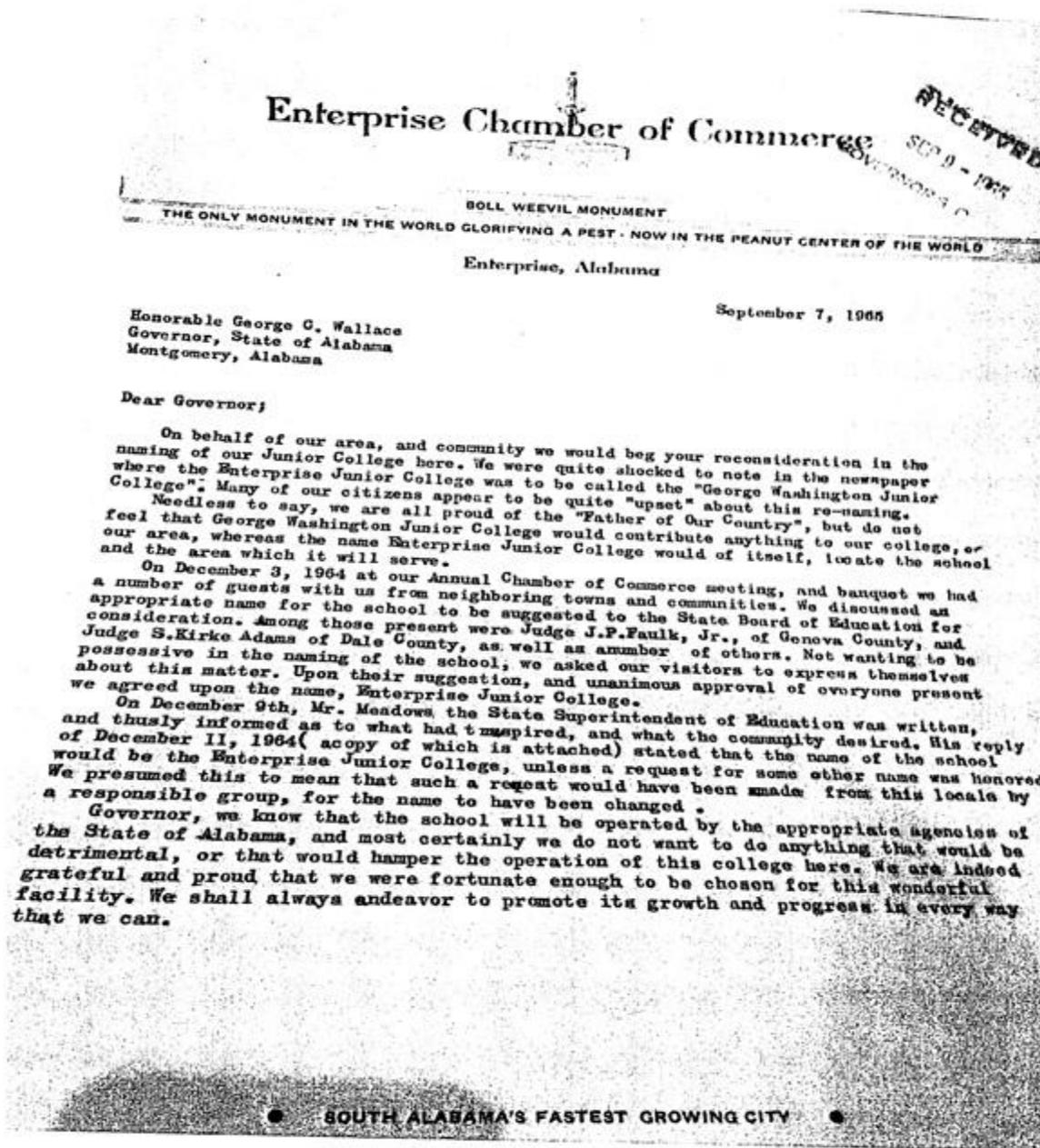


Figure 4.11. Letter from Clayton G. Metcalf to George C. Wallace, September 7, 1965.⁴⁶²

⁴⁶² Clayton Metcalf, President of the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, personal correspondence with Governor George C. Wallace, September 7, 1965. Available at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (Montgomery, AL.) Alabama Governor (1963-1967: Wallace). "Educational Department Junior Colleges and Trade Schools. Folder 3 of 3, July 9, 1963-September 29, 1966. Container Folder 16; SG22386

I am sure that you are aware of our feelings for you in this area. We are happy that our new road by the Junior College has been named "George C. Wallace Drive", and we are more than pleased that all of the Administration Buildings of the schools will bear your name. Had it not been for Napier Field having already been named for you, we would without a doubt have asked that our school here be named for you. The people of Alabama should always be appreciative of the outstanding job that you have performed as the Governor of our great State.

We feel that the changing of the name of the school from the Enterprise Junior College to the George Washington Junior College would neither benefit the school nor the community which it will serve. It is the opinion of most of those with whom this matter has been discussed, that the name Enterprise Junior College would be a much more appropriate name for the school here.

Let me say again Governor, that we do not want, nor intend to be meddlesome in this or any other matter. We have only the best interests of the school and community at heart. Our people are quite upset about the matter as it now stands in the renaming of the college.

We respectfully ask for reconsideration in this matter, and whatever decision is decided upon, we shall endeavor to support and promote the School and community and the State of Alabama.

Respectfully,

Clayton G. Metcalf
Clayton G. Metcalf
President

Figure 4.11. (continued)

September 14, 1965

Mr. Clayton Metcalf
Enterprise Chamber of Commerce
Enterprise, Alabama

Dear Clayton:

I have your letter of recent date regarding the action of the Chamber of Commerce relative to the naming of your new Junior College. I am sure the State Board of Education wishes to please people in the locality regarding the name, and I will certainly delay the naming of this college at this time. I want to discuss it with you.

The whole idea was to try to name these colleges after some of our great patriots, in view of the fact that the liberal socialistic trend is to play down patriotism and love of country. However, I can certainly understand the desire of the people to have it known as the Enterprise Junior College.

I will discuss it with you later, and in the meantime, we will hold up the making of any plaques for the college in this regard. It is always good to hear from you and please convey my kind regards to the Chamber of Commerce.

With best wishes to you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

George C. Wallace
Governor

Figure 4.12. Letter from George C. Wallace to Clayton G. Metcalf, September 14, 1965.⁴⁶³

⁴⁶³ Governor George C. Wallace, personal correspondence with, Clayton Metcalf, President of the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, September 14, 1965. Available at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (Montgomery, AL.) Alabama Governor (1963-1967: Wallace). "Educational Department Junior Colleges and Trade Schools. Folder 3 of 3, July 9, 1963-September 29, 1966. Container Folder 16; SG22386.

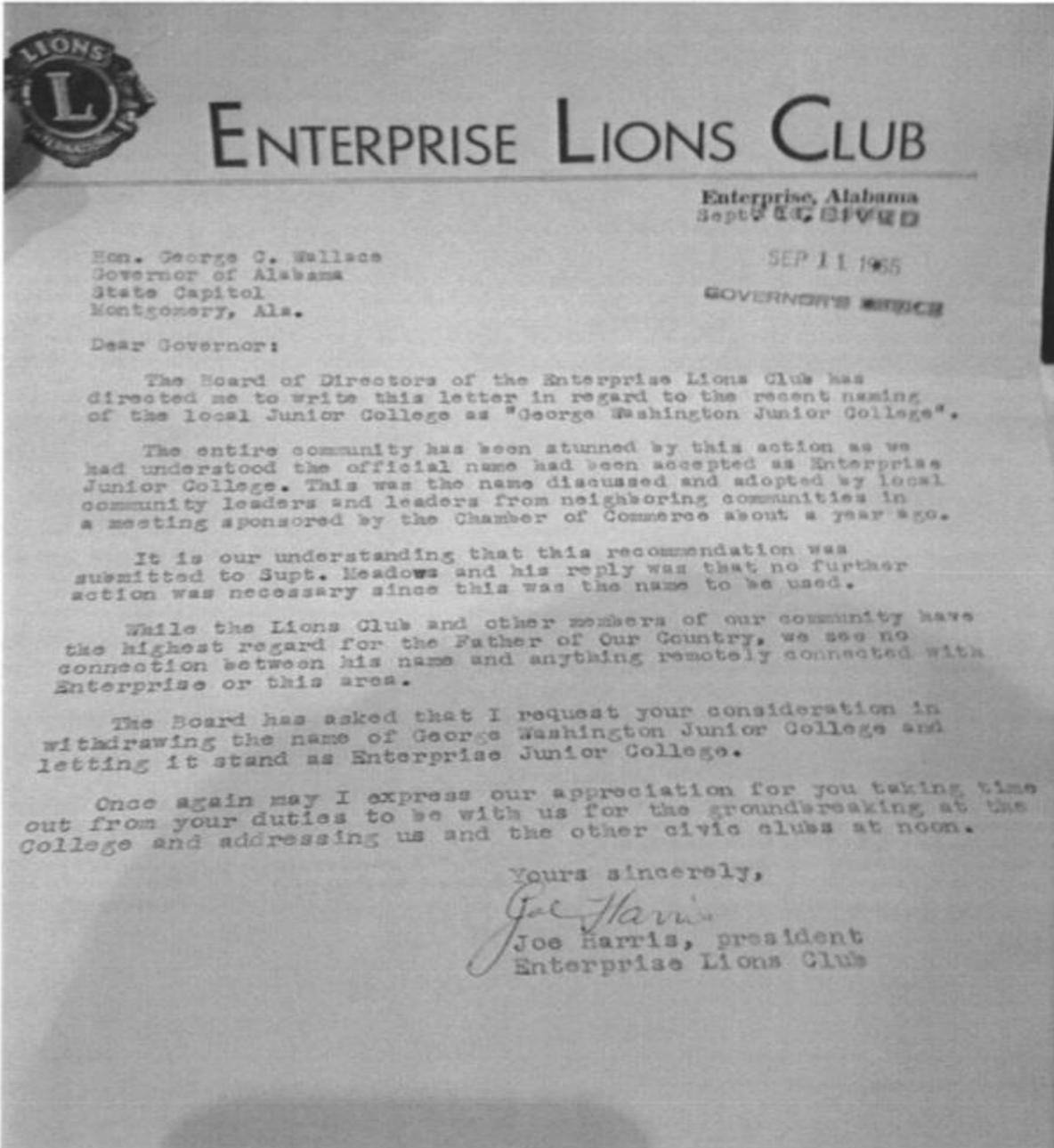


Figure 4.13. Letter from Joe Harris to George C. Wallace, September 1965.⁴⁶⁴

⁴⁶⁴ Joe Harris, President of Enterprise Lions Club, personal correspondence with Governor George C. Wallace, September 11, 1965. Available at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (Montgomery, AL.), Alabama Governor (1963-1967: Wallace). "Educational Department Junior Colleges and Trade Schools, Folder 3 of 3, July 9, 1963- September 29, 1966. Container Folder 16; SG22386.

September 16, 1965

Mr. Joe Harris, President
Enterprise Lions Club
Enterprise, Alabama

Dear Joe:

I have your letter regarding the name of the Enterprise Junior College. We certainly want to comply with the wishes of the people there in Enterprise and I have asked them to delay the naming of this school until we can confer further.

It is always good to hear from you, and please convey my kind regards to the members of the Lions Club.

With best wishes to you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

George C. Wallace
Governor

GCW:aam

cc: Hugh Adams
Building Commission

Figure 4.14. Letter from George C. Wallace to Joe Harris, September 16, 1965.⁴⁶⁵

⁴⁶⁵ Governor George C. Wallace, personal correspondence with Joe Harris, President of Enterprise Lions Club, September 11, 1965. Available at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (Montgomery, AL.), Alabama Governor (1963-1967: Wallace). "Educational Department Junior Colleges and Trade Schools, Folder 3 of 3, July 9, 1963- September 29, 1966. Container Folder 16; SG22386.

Enterprise State Community College does have a symbol to identify the confusion on naming the College. Located on the George C. Wallace Administration Building the cornerstone identified the building as Enterprise Junior College. Wallace announced the name change to George Washington State Junior College on August 30, 1965, three months after the Andalusia Development Company (ADC) was awarded the bid for the contract. During those three months the ADC was building the administration building, a cornerstone was laid as "Enterprise Junior College." The author concludes the building cornerstone already existed when Wallace announced the two-year school names. If the Alabama State Board of Education had decided to keep Enterprise's junior college as George Washington State Junior College, then the George C. Wallace Administration Building would have the College's name incorrectly on the cornerstone.

To ensure the College did not receive permanently marked foundation plaques, Mr. John R. Purvis, chief architect for the Alabama Building Commission, sent a letter to Pearson, Humphrey, and Jones the architects which claimed, "the official name of this school has been established as Enterprise State Junior College. Please use this name on the plaque to be placed, in the lobby of the administration building and on the permanent school sign." ⁴⁶⁶

⁴⁶⁶ "EJC Now ESJC, but Not GWJC," *The Dothan Eagle*, November 18, 1965.



Figure 4.15. Enterprise Junior College cornerstone, 1965.

Cornerstone identifying the name of the College as Enterprise Junior College. This must have been set in the George C. Wallace Administration Building before Governor Wallace announced the name of the college as George Washington State Junior College on August 30, 1965. On November 2, 1965, the Alabama State Board of Education recognized the official name of the college as Enterprise State Junior College.

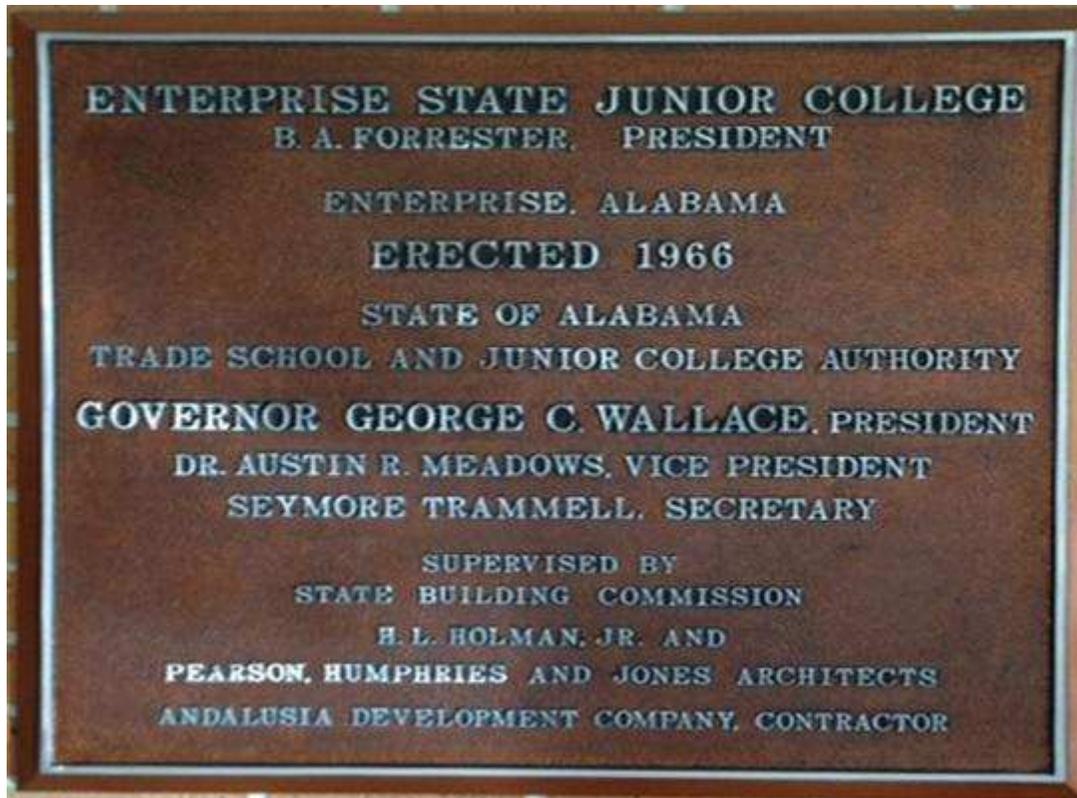


Figure 4.16. Dedication Plaque in the George C. Wallace Administration Building, ESCC, 1966. From August 30, 1965 to November 2, 1966, the City of Enterprise waited to learn whether the name of the college would be Enterprise Junior College or George Washington State Junior College. After two months of debate, the Alabama State Board of Education notified President B. A. Forrester that the official name would be Enterprise State Junior College.

A New Gym

Forrester received a shock on August 30, 1965, when the name of the College changed, but was also surprised to learn that a new building had been added to the College. On October 11, 1965, Senator Ray Lolley announced an allocation of \$350,000 to build a new health and physical science building.⁴⁶⁷ Within one year of his presidential appointment, Forrester received an additional building bringing the total number of new college buildings to four by 1966. The firm of Pearson, Humphrey and Jones received the approval to design the 27,000 square foot building.⁴⁶⁸ On March 21, 1966, *The Elba Clipper*, stated that Governor Wallace and Senator Lolley had announced bids would be received for the new Health Building.⁴⁶⁹ Bids were collected and opened on April 14, 1966, with Madison Construction Company of Ozark winning the bid for the Health and Physical Education Building.⁴⁷⁰ By receiving the Health and Physical Education Building, the College continued to develop the campus and increase student involvement with athletics.

The Gymnasium and Health Building offered the College an opportunity to enter college athletics. Forrester mentioned that the building should be completed by fall 1966, just in time for the inaugural basketball season.⁴⁷¹ Students excited about the upcoming school year voted on a mascot. According to *The Enterprise Ledger* article, students selected the “Boll Weevils” over

⁴⁶⁷ “Enterprise College Gets New Gymnasium,” *The Montgomery Advertiser*, October 11, 1965.

⁴⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶⁹ “Bids Ask on Jr. College Building,” *The Elba Clipper*, March 21, 1966.

⁴⁷⁰ “Bids Opened for Jr. College Gymnasium,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, April 18, 1966.

⁴⁷¹ “ESJC President Talks of Prospects for New Year,” *The Dothan Eagle*, January 20, 1966.

“the Mustangs” and “the Raiders.”⁴⁷² Ronnie Donaldson, a member of the first class and credited with the Boll Weevils becoming the mascot of ESCC, stated, “The Boll Weevils are tough and courageous. To wipe them out and make them extinct is impossible. Sometimes they may be slowed down, but they always come back with renewed and stronger force.”⁴⁷³ The Boll Weevils name was not the only tradition students established for the College. Students also voted and selected Kelly Green and White as the College’s official colors.⁴⁷⁴ The gymnasium symbolized the college’s continued growth during the first year.

While students started the fall 1966 school year with an Administration Building, Science Building and Library, they could see the campus expanding while the Health and Physical Education Building was under construction. Forrester had predicted on May 2, 1965, that additional buildings would come “when we get some more money.”⁴⁷⁵ He outlined the “second phase” of development would include a health and physical fitness building, a fine arts building, and a modern student center.⁴⁷⁶ During his presidency 1965-1981, he witnessed the completion of these three buildings.

⁴⁷² “‘Boll Weevils’ Name for ESJC Future Teams,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, December 14, 1965. The Boll Weevil symbolizes local pride for Enterprise, Alabama. The Boll Weevil, a pest that destroyed the cotton crop and forced farmers to expand into other areas of agricultural such as peanuts, cotton and livestock, has a monument in the center of Main Street. It is the only monument in the world honoring a pest.

⁴⁷³ Ibid.

⁴⁷⁴ Elaine Sorrells, “Junior College Comments” *The News Herald*, December 16, 1965.

⁴⁷⁵ “Junior College Will Open This Fall,” *The Birmingham News*, May 2, 1965.

⁴⁷⁶ Ibid.

September 1965 was the beginning of Enterprise State Community College's first year. The students and staff worked in temporary facilities, witnessed the permanent campus built, implemented an evening program and experienced an enrollment increase from 256 to 544 students.⁴⁷⁷ The first year proved to be a time of transition, construction, and growth. By the fall of 1966, Forrester was leading the College for his second year and beginning classes in "three modern, fully equipped and air-conditioned buildings."⁴⁷⁸

⁴⁷⁷ *Enterprise State Junior College Fact Book 1991*. (Enterprise: 1991), 27.

⁴⁷⁸ *Enterprise State Community College Catalog 1966-1967*, (Enterprise: 1966), 11-13.

CHAPTER 5

FORRESTER'S PRESIDENCY: 1965-1981

The 1960s

By August of 1966, Enterprise State Junior College no longer operated out of temporary facilities. The eighteen months of planning a campus, working with contractors, and watching the buildings develop ended as students, faculty, staff and administrators reported to campus. Forrester had enjoyed support from Governor George C. Wallace during his first term (1963-1967). During that period, Forrester served as Chairman for the Junior College Committee of the Alabama State Board of Education (June 1963- October 1963), Assistant State Superintendent of Education (1963-1964), and President of Enterprise State Junior College, beginning in 1965. These roles allowed Forrester to witness the state junior college system being established, funded, and beginning to operate. Enterprise State Junior College benefited from the financial investments from the Wallace Administration and the Alabama Legislature; an investment total of \$41,000,000 by 1966.⁴⁷⁹

The 1960s were characterized by challenges and rewards for Forrester. As the 1960s closed, Forrester worked with two new governors, Lurleen B. Wallace and Albert P. Brewer. During Governor Lurleen B. Wallace's term (1967-May 7, 1968), Forrester welcomed her to the College dedication and he planned for the College's first commencement. Forrester worked with Governor Albert P. Brewer (May 7, 1968 - January 18, 1971) for educational reform and to

⁴⁷⁹ Stephen G. Katsinas, "George C. Wallace and the Founding of Alabama's Two-Year Colleges," *The Journal of Higher Education* 65, no.4 (1994): 465.

receive funding to build a Student Center. During the terms of both Governors Lurleen B. Wallace and Albert P. Brewer funding the junior college system was a problem.

During 1971-1979, Forrester again worked with Governor George C. Wallace in his second (1971-1975) and third terms (1975-1979). Forrester also witnessed the Debate Team elevate the College to state and national prominence by winning a national championship in 1971. Additionally, he began expanded coursework in career training to award the Associate in Applied Science Degree. During Governor Wallace's second term, Forrester partnered with the Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology to award an Associate in Applied Science Degree and protected Enterprise State Junior College from merging with Troy University.

On a national level, Forrester received the benefits of the federal government investing in higher education through the Omnibus Crime Bill and the Higher Education Amendment Act of 1972. Both federal programs increased enrollments and offered additional programs to the College. Forrester would end his career with a new governor Forrest "Fob" James. Forrester spent his presidency protecting Enterprise State Junior College from the whimsical designs of Alabama legislators who consistently tried to reorganize, consolidate, or close the two-year institutions during his tenure (1965-1981).

A New Governor and Funding Problems

During Governor Wallace's first term (1963-1967), postsecondary education received unprecedented financial support. Wallace had succeeded in enabling the Alabama Legislature to fund a two- year system of higher education. He pushed state legislators to pass Acts 92, 93, and

94, which established, funded, and organized two-year colleges in Alabama.⁴⁸⁰ For every two-year college built, Wallace's popularity increased.⁴⁸¹ By 1965, the first year the two-year institutions opened, Wallace had experienced briefly the 1964 presidential race. The excitement of campaigning nationally fueled Wallace's desire to run for president in 1968. Wallace did not want to lose his political momentum and fade away as a former politician waiting for the national elections in 1968. Wallace needed to stay in the public spotlight.

Alabama citizens elected a new governor in 1966. Governor Wallace tried unsuccessfully to succeed himself, but the 1901 Alabama Constitution did not allow governors to succeed themselves.⁴⁸² Since Wallace could not run again for governor, he convinced his wife Lurleen B. Wallace to run in his place with him serving as "her \$1-a-year chief advisor."⁴⁸³ If Lurleen won the election in 1966, Governor George C. Wallace would maintain his political momentum and carry it into a run for the President of the United States in 1968.⁴⁸⁴ In 1966, among nine male Democratic Party candidates, including former Governors John Patterson and James E. "Jim" Folsom, Congressman Carl Elliot, and Attorney General Richmond Flowers, Lurleen B. Wallace prevailed in the Democratic primary and easily defeated Republican Jim Martin.⁴⁸⁵ While she

⁴⁸⁰ *Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives*, reg. sess., 1963, 259; *Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives*, reg. sess., 1963, 259-268; *Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives*, reg. sess., 1963, 268-270.

⁴⁸¹ Katsinas, "George C. Wallace," 462-463.

⁴⁸² *Ibid*, 448.

⁴⁸³ Glen T. Eskew, "Lurleen B. Wallace, 1967-May 1968," in *Alabama Governors: A Political History of the State*, ed. Samuel L. Webb and Margeret E. Armbruster. (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press), 230-234.

⁴⁸⁴ *Ibid*.

⁴⁸⁵ *Ibid*, 232.

was elected governor as a stand-in for her husband, Governor Lurleen caused an uproar among educational leaders by reducing the education budget.⁴⁸⁶

Alabama had received an additional \$25 million in extra funds during 1966.⁴⁸⁷ In 1967, educators believed the surplus would increase funding to all public schools in Alabama, including the two-year system. The two-year institutions were mistaken. According to LeRoy Brown, President of Jefferson State Junior College and President of the Alabama Association of Junior College Presidents, two-year institutions received less than two and half percent of appropriations.⁴⁸⁸ Educators were shocked to learn that Governor Lurleen presented a budget with reductions in educational funding.⁴⁸⁹ Within three months of serving as governor, Lurleen Wallace proposed a reduced education budget. A reduced budget was aimed towards school systems who volunteered to integrate during former Governor George C. Wallace's last year as governor (1966).⁴⁹⁰ Governor George C. Wallace and the Alabama State Board of Education encouraged public schools to defy integration.⁴⁹¹ In the Wallaces' continued effort to resist integration, a reduced budget constituted punishment for Alabama's educational system.

⁴⁸⁶ Anne Permaloff and Carl Grafton, *Political Power in Alabama: The More Things Change...* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1995), 257.

⁴⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸⁸ "The Growing Pain Crisis in Our Junior Colleges," *AREA Magazine* (March, 1968), 9.

⁴⁸⁹ Permaloff and Grafton, *The more things change...*, 257.

⁴⁹⁰ Ibid. See also "Court Orders Alabama Integration," *The Spokesman-Review*, March 22, 1967, 29; "Desegregation Burden Placed on the State," *The Gadsden Times*, March 23, 1967. By 1967, 19 out of 118 school districts in Alabama were integrated. Alabama was forced to integrate 99 school districts in March 1967, when the federal courts upheld *Wallace vs. United States*.

⁴⁹¹ Ibid.

Governor Lurleen presented a reduced education budget to try to persuade the public school system to support segregation. The Wallaces angered educators throughout the state with the decrease in funding. The reduction was clearly aimed at educational institutions complying with federal courts enforcing integration. For example, Governor Lurleen refused to sign the educational budget due to the line item allotted for Tuskegee University (a private Historically Black College or University).⁴⁹² At the time, many Alabama politicians were encouraging white students to attend private schools in order to keep segregation. Governor Lurleen waited on approving the line item for Tuskegee over funding private school tuition waivers, which federal courts ruled unconstitutional. If federal courts had upheld private school tuition waivers, the surplus funds could have been used to send whites to private segregated schools. Alabama's education system would not have survived with private schools. If Alabama's educational leaders would have encouraged segregated private schools, the state would have missed millions of dollars from federal funds such as the Higher Education Act of 1965.

Governor Lurleen signed the state budget in August 1967.⁴⁹³ While Tuskegee was eventually funded, at a reduced rate of \$200,000, Governor Lurleen approved funding for two more junior colleges and for the University of Alabama to purchase Confederate Flags for all home football games.⁴⁹⁴ If Governor Lurleen had been worried only about a balanced educational budget, Tuskegee University, or other institutions of higher learning would not have

⁴⁹² Ibid, 262.

⁴⁹³ Ibid, 254.

⁴⁹⁴ Ibid. Two additional junior colleges were built in 1969; Lurleen B. Wallace State Junior College in Andalusia, Alabama and Albert P. Brewer State Junior College in Fayette, Alabama.

received reduced funding. The reduced educational budget displayed state resistance that Governor Lurleen continued against integration.

Enterprise State Community College felt the effects of reduced funds. Two-year institutions were not immune from the decreased funding. By July 1967, Forrester learned the state junior college program for the 1967-1968 and 1968-1969 academic years had been reduced from \$7,185,548 to \$6,747,403.⁴⁹⁵ Enterprise State Junior College and other state junior colleges expected an increase of 50% of enrollments over the next two years (1967-1968 and 1968-1969).⁴⁹⁶ Forrester was concerned about the decreased funding with anticipated increased enrollments. Forrester questioned how the Alabama Legislature could reduce the two-year colleges' funding during a time of explosive growth. Forrester stated, "The growth factor was over looked in the first estimates. We (the junior college presidents) hope we can catch it in the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee."⁴⁹⁷ Forrester, along with other state junior college presidents wanted the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee to be aware of the increased number of students their institutions anticipated in upcoming years. Forrester noted that the decreased funding would provide only \$421.00 per student.⁴⁹⁸ In 1965, the average spent per student was \$777.⁴⁹⁹ In 1966, the average spent was \$668 per student while Enterprise State

⁴⁹⁵ "Area Junior Colleges Face Drastic Fund Cutback under Proposed Bill," *The Southern Star*, July 27, 1967.

⁴⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹⁹ Ibid.

experienced a 145% increase in students.⁵⁰⁰ In 1966, the College's second year of operation, increased enrollments demanded more faculty for the classroom. In 1965, the College enrolled only freshmen. Both freshmen and sophomores were admitted in 1966. Enrollments increased from 256 in 1965 to 544 by 1966, a rate of 113%.⁵⁰¹ By the start of the third year of operating, fall 1967, Enterprise State enrolled 849 students.⁵⁰²

⁵⁰⁰ Ibid.

⁵⁰¹ *The ESJC Fact Book*, 27.

⁵⁰² Ibid.

Table 5.1. ESCC enrollment data, 1965-1990.⁵⁰³

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>
1965	256
1966	544
1967	849
1968	926
1969	1050
1970	1387
1971	1619
1972	1952
1973	1875
1974	1303
1975	1830
1976	1495
1977	1689
1978	1851
1979	1735
1980	1918
1981	1883
1982	1938
1983	1864
1984	2076
1985	2297
1986	2091
1987	2174
1988	2028
1989	2223
1990	2113

Increased enrollments created funding problems for Forrester and the state junior college system. According to Moore, in 1965, 5,737 students attended fourteen public junior colleges which received \$710 for every full time (student) enrollment.⁵⁰⁴ By 1966, 12,910 students

⁵⁰³ *The ESJC Fact Book*, 27.

⁵⁰⁴ E. B. Moore, Jr. *Organizing the Alabama State Junior College System for the Seventies*. (Washington, D. C.: U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 1973), 10. In 1965 the following fourteen public junior colleges opened in Alabama: Alexander City State Junior College, Alexander City, Alabama; Enterprise State Junior College, Enterprise, Alabama; Gadsden State Junior College, Gadsden, Alabama; George C. Wallace State Junior College, Dothan, Alabama; John C. Calhoun State Junior College, Decatur, Alabama; Northeast State

enrolled in Alabama's fourteen junior colleges and received \$519 for every full time equivalent.⁵⁰⁵ Forrester had fewer funds, increased enrollments, and additional employees to support.⁵⁰⁶ Decreased funds for public two-year institutions were a statewide problem. Funding Alabama's educational system continued to be a problem through Governor Lurleen's administration. In 1967, while state legislators prepared to pass a balanced budget, Forrester invited Governor Lurleen to dedicate the College.

College Dedication and First Commencement

Four months after Governor Lurleen B. Wallace was inaugurated on January 16, 1967, she dedicated Enterprise State Junior College.⁵⁰⁷ The College's official dedication on April 30, 1967, honored the desire and dedication local and state officials made to establish a junior college in Enterprise. Mayor M. N. "Jug" Brown, serving as the Master of Ceremonies, acknowledged the tireless efforts of local citizens to raise funds to purchase the property for the junior college.⁵⁰⁸ President Forrester pledged that the College would continue to serve the needs of the community: "We dedicate ourselves as we dedicate this college to serving the educational,

Junior College, Rainsville, Alabama; Patrick Henry State Junior College, Monroeville, Alabama; Jefferson Davis State Junior College, Brewton, Alabama; Jefferson State Junior College, Birmingham, Alabama; Mobile State Junior College, Mobile, Alabama; Northwest Alabama Junior College, Phil Campbell, Alabama; Southern Union State Junior College, Wadley, Alabama; Wenonah State Junior College, Birmingham, Alabama; William Lowndes Yancey State Junior College, Bay Minette, Alabama.

⁵⁰⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁰⁶ According to the Enterprise State Junior College Catalog 1966-1967, four additional faculty were hired for the 1966-1967 academic year.

⁵⁰⁷ Tex Middlebrooks, "Governor To Help Dedicate College," *The Dothan Eagle*, April 30, 1967.

⁵⁰⁸ Ibid.

intellectual and cultural needs of this community.”⁵⁰⁹ After Forrester finished his speech, Senator Ray Lolley recognized Governor Lurleen B. Wallace as the main speaker.⁵¹⁰

The audience of over 3,000 listened as Governor Lurleen noted the institution was more than buildings by stating, “It is an institution of service and the object of that service is the youth of this area, their families, and the communities in which they live. This institution will necessarily have a profound effect upon the lives of all it touches.”⁵¹¹ She also acknowledged her resistance to federal integration in Alabama’s public school system. In March 1967, she received notification the Supreme Court upheld *Lee v. Macon County Board of Education*, and ordered integration for all public schools in Alabama.⁵¹² Governor Lurleen believed the federal order was a clear violation of the state’s right to handle education by the federal government. She informed the College dedication crowd, “We have seen the federal judiciary claim the power to issue regulations governing every phase and aspect of public school education in the State of Alabama

⁵⁰⁹ Ibid.

⁵¹⁰ “Governor To Help Dedicate College,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, April 30, 1967.

⁵¹¹ Ibid.

⁵¹² “Alabama Governors Lurleen Burns Wallace 1967-1968,” http://www.archives.state.al.us/govs_list/g_walllu.html; Eskew, “Lurleen B. Wallace,” 230-234. In March 1967, Federal Judges Frank M. Johnson Jr., Richard T. Rives, and Harloom H. Grooms upheld *Lee v. Macon County Board of Education*. *Lee v. Macon County* ruled the all-white school in Tuskegee must be integrated. *Lee v. Macon County* was appealed by the Wallace Administration to the Supreme Court as *Wallace v. United States*. The Supreme Court struck down *Wallace v. United States* and enforced *Lee v. Macon County* which integrated all schools in Alabama. The court’s decision increased the process of integration in Alabama. While schools were integrated by 1969, many public schools and post-secondary institutions administrators, faculties and staff remained segregated. Forrester, as well as all two-year college presidents, were instructed to integrate college faculty, staff, and administrators. This process of integrating public school faculties, staff, and administrators continued throughout the 1970s.

and the additional power to supervise and administer their own regulations.”⁵¹³ She reminded the audience of their “constitutional right” and “civic duty” to resist the federal government for violating the constitution.⁵¹⁴ The governor identified the federal government’s abuse of power with integration. She acknowledged the federal courts intervention in Alabama’s public schools: “The federal courts have no rightful power to regulate, supervise and administer public schools. The supervision and administration of public schools are legislative and executive functions of state government and the United States Constitution did not vest these powers in the federal government.”⁵¹⁵ While the governor spoke against federal integration, Enterprise State admitted eighty African Americans in 1966.⁵¹⁶ While the first class was all white, the College had integrated once it moved into the first three permanent buildings.⁵¹⁷ Governor Wallace opposed desegregation speaking to an institution already integrated.

The College dedication ended with Governor Lurleen Wallace visiting with citizens at the first open house for the Ray Lolley Health and Physical Science Building. Governor Wallace and the community were treated to a reception hosted by the Altrusa Club, the local women’s civic club that had first supported establishing a private junior college in 1963. According to *The Birmingham News* Medical Writer, Anita Smith, who followed Governor Lurleen Wallace’s short tenure as governor, Enterprise State Junior College was one of the last college dedications

⁵¹³ Tex Middlebrooks, “Governor To Help Dedicate College,” *The Dothan Eagle*, April 30, 1967.

⁵¹⁴ Ibid.

⁵¹⁵ Ibid.

⁵¹⁶ Roy Shoffner, *Dateline: Enterprise* (Tallahassee: Rose Printing Company, 1987), 84.

⁵¹⁷ Ibid.

she attended.⁵¹⁸ In June of 1967, one month after attending ESJC's dedication, Governor Wallace was diagnosed with uterine cancer. She would spend her remaining days as governor battling cancer. After serving sixteen months as governor, she died on May 7, 1968.⁵¹⁹

After celebrating the college's dedication, on June 1, 1967, ESJC celebrated its first commencement. Graduation recognized the pioneer students' achievement of earning a certificate or an associate's degree. John E. Deloney, President of Livingston State College (today University of West Alabama) addressed the graduates and stated,

Yesterday, today, tomorrow mean much for us, but yesterday is dead. Many people try to live in yesterday but it will not work. The gospel of tomorrow is the opposite of yesterday. Many expect everything to be alright tomorrow. They plan to do great things-tomorrow-when they leave school and go out into the working world. It just doesn't happen as planned. Each must give in order to receive-NOW. Today, right now, is all that really counts. Those who look back or look ahead are wishing tomorrow comes shining and productive only if we use today.⁵²⁰

Deloney encouraged students to continue their education and not stop at the junior college level. It was important for the graduates, as well as the state junior college's to send graduates to four-year institutions.⁵²¹ By sending junior college graduates to four year institutions, political and educational leaders recognized the importance junior colleges served in Alabama.

⁵¹⁸ Anita Smith, *The Intimate Story of Lurleen Wallace: Her Crusade of Courage*. (Birmingham: Lowery Premier, 1969), 90.

⁵¹⁹ Glen T. Eskew, "Lurleen B. Wallace," 230-234.

⁵²⁰ "Historic First Commencement Held at E'prise Junior College," *The Enterprise Ledger*, June 6, 1967.

⁵²¹ "First Graduation Held By College," *The Dothan Eagle*, June 5, 1967.

Once Deloney completed his graduation address, Student Government Association President George Landingham stated, “We have chosen the school colors, the school mascot, organized clubs, and started an annual. We take pride in being the first class to graduate from Enterprise State Junior College.”⁵²² Forrester presented, upon the recommendation of the faculty, Ms. Patsy Crumpler the first associate’s degree awarded at Enterprise State Junior College.⁵²³ The College recognized sixty students during the first commencement. Forty-six students were awarded associate degrees and fourteen earned certificates. While Enterprise State’s graduation represented the pinnacle of achievement for the College in 1967, funding continued to be a problem Forrester experienced with new Governor Albert P. Brewer.

⁵²² Ibid.

⁵²³ Ibid.



Figure 5.1. ESJC's first graduating class, June 1, 1967.⁵²⁴

⁵²⁴ *Anthonomus* (1967),15.

Table 5.2. ESJC's first graduating class, 1967

Associate in Arts

First/Middle	Last Name
Patsy Elaine	Crumpler
Mary Angeline	Fulford
Ronald Lee	Hatcher
Brenda Joyce	Martin
Michael Keith	Windham

Associate in Science

Marilyn	Arnold
Rosemary	Brannon
Stephen Frazer Jr.	Brannon
William Henry	Carr
Charles David	Chalker
Beverly Sue	Chancy
Martha Elaine	Cook
Shirley June	Crocker
Michael Edmond	Crosby
Ernest Leon	Daniels
Curtis C.	Davis
Dorothy Gay	DeVaughan
Ronnie Howell	Donaldson
Mary Jane	Emery
Grady Joel	Ferguson
Leslie Ezell	Galloway
Sandra Jane	Head
Stephen Daniel	Heffner
Linda Gail	Henle
Millie Janice	Holley
John Alfred	Jennings
Judy Smith	Johnson
Margaret Ann	Johnson
James Carson	Judah
Danny Mack	Kelley
George Mack	Landingham

Table 5.2 (continued)

Shelby Jean	Marsh
Curtis Carroll	Martin
Gloria June	Maynard
Martha Jo	McIntosh
Barbara Sue	Newsone
Robert Henry	Peters
Roy Franklin	Powell
Cheryl Green	Reynolds
Linda Wood	Rogers
Terry D.	Snell
Amelia Sessions	Rhoades
Faye	Sexton
John P.	Thomasson
Roger Curtis	Tomberlin
Henry W.	Wilkes

Advanced Secretarial Certificates

Linda	Chambers
Kathy Corson	Chalker
Linda	Danford
Shirley	Dorriety
Carol	Hamilton
Elaine	Phillips
Betty	Roberts
Hilda	Smith
Janice Keith	Trant
Angi	Waters
Gloria McLean	Waters
Glenda	Williams
Janice	Willoughby

Data Processing - Unit Record Certificate

Frances	James
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Governor Albert P. Brewer (1968-1971)

In 1968, Enterprise State Community College experienced continued funding challenges. By the time Lt. Governor Albert Brewer became Governor on May 7, 1968, Alabama ranked next to last in the South providing education funding per child; Mississippi was last.⁵²⁵ Lt. Governor Albert P. Brewer became the first, and to date only Lt. Governor in Alabama to reach the highest office of the state, upon the death of an Alabama governor in office.⁵²⁶ Governor Brewer appreciated the opportunity both Governors George and Lurleen B. Wallace had provided Alabama, but was concerned with the lack of accountability within the higher education institutions. In order to improve the quality of education, Brewer required more accountability from institutions of higher learning. Accountability was not important during the Wallace's Administration.

Accountability in higher education was not new. While educational leaders, such as J. F. Ingram had recommended measures of educational accountability to former Governor George C. Wallace, Wallace had failed to comply. As Alabama State Director of Vocational Education J. F. Ingram stated in a letter written on July 12, 1967, to George Wallace,

There is a growing need for a coordinating authority for the colleges and universities in Alabama. There is also a growing need for the establishment of function of trade schools and colleges. At present some of the junior colleges are needlessly and expensively moving into some occupational areas already being served by the trade schools... at considerable expenses for buildings and equipment. There is dire need for a clear division

⁵²⁵ Gordon E. Harvey, "Albert P. Brewer, May 1968-1971" In *Alabama Governors A Political History of the State*, ed. Samuel L. Webb and Margeret E. Armbruster. (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press), 235-238.

⁵²⁶ Ibid.

of functions by the two types of institutions.⁵²⁷

Neither Wallace, nor state politicians, ever did a study to see how many two-year schools were needed, where they should be located, or how they should be operated. Wallace treated each new two-year school as a reward to his political cronies instead of an institution for meeting the needs of the citizens throughout Alabama.⁵²⁸ Wallace focused on the quantity of two-year colleges. He enjoyed the political favors each new two-year school brought him.

Governor Brewer wanted quality education, not more junior colleges.⁵²⁹ In order to bring change to Alabama's education system, reform was needed. During Brewer's term, (1968-1971), educational reform began. Brewer encountered three problems: first, the duplication of programs between junior colleges and trade schools; second, location of two-year colleges; and, finally, four year colleges lobbying for additional programs. Only two problems concerned two-year institutions; over duplication of programs and the location of the two-year colleges.

⁵²⁷ Letter from J.F. Ingram to George Wallace, 12 July 1967 in RC2:G349, Gov. George Wallace, Unprocessed Administrative Records, Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH). See also Permaloft and Grafton, *The more things change*, 181-182. Ingram realized George Wallace still held power in Alabama, even though his wife had been in the governor's office for seven months in July, 1967.

⁵²⁸ Katsinas, "George C. Wallace," 447-472. Glen T. Eskew, "George C. Wallace" In *Alabama Governors A Political History of the State*, ed. Samuel L. Webb and Margeret E. Armbruster. (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press), 216-230; Permaloft and Grafton, *The more things change*, 177-185.

⁵²⁹ During Governor Brewer's term (1968-1971), Lurleen B. Wallace State Junior College (1969) opened in Andalusia, Alabama and Albert P. Brewer State Junior College (1969) opened in Fayette, Alabama. Funding was approved for these institutions during Gov. Lurleen B. Wallace's administration (January 16, 1967-May 7, 1968).

By 1971, Brewer's last year in office, thirty-five two-year colleges operated in Alabama.⁵³⁰ Brewer inherited Governor George C. Wallace's agenda to expand two-year colleges throughout Alabama. The problem Brewer encountered was the location and over duplication of programs at the two-year schools. According to Permaloff and Grafton,

The seven-county strip to the east of Mobile and stretching from Baldwin and Clarke to Coffee County in the southeastern portion of the state included eight two-year institutions. In this group it is incredible that Covington County received two of these institutions. Covington had a population density of only 35 persons per square mile. Conecuh County, another part of this group, had a population density of only 18 (fourth lowest in the state), and Monroe, next to it, only 20. Five of the seven counties fell into the lowest population density category. The eight campuses in this strip of counties could easily have been four or five if carefully placed near county borders so that residents of two or three counties could attend a single institution.⁵³¹

With the increased number of two-year institutions and the additions of three, four-year universities added in counties and cities where two-year institutions existed, Brewer inherited a location and duplication nightmare.⁵³² Brewer's duplication problem centered on the failures of his predecessors provoked by their interest in keeping Alabama's education systems segregated. Instead of performing a survey to determine the needs for Alabama, some two-year schools such as Jefferson Davis State Junior College and Wenonah State Junior College in Birmingham were

⁵³⁰ Permaloff and Grafton, *The More Things Change...*, 180.

⁵³¹ Ibid.

⁵³² The following is an example of excessive duplication in higher education in Alabama: In 1968 Mobile County had three two-year institutions, Mobile State Junior College, Southwest State Technical College, and Carver Technical College. The University of South Alabama is also located in Mobile, AL. Another example is in Montgomery, AL. Montgomery County has two two-year institutions, John M. Patterson State Technical College and H. Council Trenholm State Technical College and three four-year universities Alabama State University, Troy State University-Montgomery and Auburn University-Montgomery. The numbers of colleges increased excessive spending and duplication on a state struggling to finance higher education.

built to continue segregation.⁵³³ Building additional two-year colleges to maintain segregation created duplication of programs in the state. Brewer addressed the number of two-year schools and the duplication of programs among two and four year colleges by supporting the recommendations from the Alabama Education Study Commission.

The Alabama Education Study Commission (AESC) originated in the Alabama Legislature in 1967 during Governor Lurleen Wallace's sixteen months in office.⁵³⁴ The AESC was formed to assist with funding Alabama's educational system. For fifteen months, the AESC studied problems Alabama's education system faced and how to improve funding Alabama's educational system over the next ten years (1967-1977).⁵³⁵ Due to the death of Governor Lurleen Wallace, the AESC reported the findings and recommendations to the Alabama Legislature in 1969 while Brewer was governor.

In 1967, the commission was charged by Governor Lurleen "to give school children in Alabama the best education possible."⁵³⁶ Thirteen members were appointed by Governor Lurleen Wallace and the remaining eight were appointed by the Legislature. Of the twenty-one committee members, seven were involved in higher education. None of the members who served on the committee represented a two-year institution. No African Americans served on the Committee. The governor "urged the commission members to devote as much of your time and

⁵³³ Today Jefferson Davis State Junior College is Jeff State Community College and Wenonah State Junior College is Lawson State Community College.

⁵³⁴ *Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives*, reg. sess., 1967, 552-555.

⁵³⁵ "Education Report Requires Homework," *The Tuscaloosa News*, January 18, 1969.

⁵³⁶ Rex Thomas, "13 Appointed by Governor to Education Study Group," *The Tuscaloosa News*, December 8, 1967.

talents as possible in determining the strengths, and weaknesses, of our public educational system.”⁵³⁷ If the AESC wanted to address the needs of two-year institutions, the Committee needed assistance from two-year colleges to learn their challenges and solutions to their problems. By September 1968, Forrester provided information concerning Enterprise State Junior College’s ten-year plan, the state junior college presidents outlined their vision, and the Department of Research and Higher Education detailed their expectations for the junior college system.

⁵³⁷ Ibid.

Table 5.3. Alabama Education Study Commission members, 1968.⁵³⁸

*Charles McNeil	Mobile Businessman
*Vernon St. John	Superintendent of Opp City School
*Harry Philpott	Auburn University President
*Dr. Elizabeth Davis	Acting Head of the School of Home Economic at Auburn University
*Graham Wright	Talladega Businessman
*Dr. James Edmondson	Judson College President
*Frank Samford Sr.	Birmingham Businessman
*Mrs. J. D. Johns	Housewife
*H. Clyde Reeves	University of Alabama Huntsville Vice President
*Dr. Lillian Manley	Head of the Biology Department at Judson College
*William Thrash	Clanton Labor Leader
*M. D. Thornton	Legislative Chairman for the Alabama Vocational Education Association
*Dr. D. L. Howell	Troy State College Vice-President for Academic Affairs
**Ernest Stone	Alabama State School Superintendent
**Lt. Gov. Albert Brewer	
** Rep. Rankin Fite	House Speaker
**Sen. Joe Goodwyn	Montgomery
**Sen. Fred Folsom	Cullman

⁵³⁸ Rex Thomas, "13 Appointed by Governor To Education Study Group," *The Tuscaloosa News*, 8 December 1967, p. 3.

*Appointed by Governor Lurleen B. Wallace

** Appointed by the Alabama Legislature.

Table 5.3. (continued)

**Rep. Douglas Cook	Jefferson County
**Rep. Hugh Merrill	Calhoun
** Rep. Ira Pruitt	Sumter

The Alabama Education Study Commission (AESC) informed Forrester of the study and requested his College's assistance in completing a questionnaire to learn more about its ten-year plan. In reviewing the questionnaire, the AESC desired to learn six major objectives.⁵³⁹ Forrester wasted little time providing Enterprise State Community College's ten-year plan. First, he wanted the Alabama Education Study Commission to understand the importance of the junior college in the local community. Forrester expressed his deepest desires that the "services of the junior college will remain open to all who could benefit from them through (1) minimum tuition fees, (2) an open-door admission policy, and (3) evening classes for full time workers."⁵⁴⁰ If the junior college did not provide the educational training desired by the local community, then it did not meet the needs of the community.

⁵³⁹ Benjamin Abb Forrester, "Enterprise State Junior College," 22 May 1968. Forrester provided six objectives to Dr. H.B. Woodward, Jr., Executive Director Alabama Education Study Commission. The six objectives included the following: Those six objectives focused on the following: The purpose of Enterprise State Junior College; In what ways and through what programs and services does your institution seek to achieve its purposes; Do you see the purposes changing now and 1975, and if so, in what ways?; In what ways and through what programs and services do you see the institution changing to achieve these purposes?; What procedures have been used in determining the purposes of your institution; How do your present and projected programs and services relate to total higher education needs of this state?

⁵⁴⁰ Ibid, 1-2.

Second, Forrester outlined the ways the College served the community. Forrester noted that providing parallel academic programs for the first two years was the most important part of the institution, but he also recognized that the College served the community through an evening program and extra-curricular activities. By 1970, the Evening Program enrolled 564 students.⁵⁴¹ The College also served the community through civic clubs and organizations promoting cultural enrichment. If the College did not invite civic organizations on campus, then students would not be exposed to different clubs and organizations throughout the state. By hosting different clubs and organizations on campus, the College invited the community to attend an event, play or musical that many citizens would not otherwise have been able to experience.

Forrester believed the purpose of Enterprise State Junior College would not change over the next ten years. Enterprise State Junior College would continue to offer academic coursework at the freshman and sophomore level. However, Forrester stated, "...we expect job training, continuing education for adults and community cultural enrichment to grow in importance."⁵⁴² Forrester realized as more students enrolled at ESJC, the College had to meet the demands of the students for academic coursework or job training. If the College failed to provide such programs, students would enroll elsewhere. Forrester noted by 1977, the College would be involved in technical programs. He stated, "We are making plans now for expanding occupational entry (transfer) and technical programs, beginning in 1970. The first three terminal programs are expected to be police science, food store management, and retail furniture store management.

⁵⁴¹ *ESJC Fact Book*, 35.

⁵⁴² Benjamin Abb Forrester, "Enterprise State Junior College," 22 May 1968. Forrester provided six objectives to Dr. H. B. Woodward, Jr., Executive Director Alabama Education Study Commission.

Students completing them would receive the Associate degree in Applied Science.”⁵⁴³ By 1977, ESJC was offering an Associate in Police Science due to the Omnibus Crime Bill (1969), had begun working with the University of Alabama at Birmingham offering the first two years of academics for transfer into a medical occupation (1970), and partnered with the Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology to offer an Associate in Applied Science in Aviation (1971).⁵⁴⁴

Next, Forrester addressed the importance of the junior colleges. Forrester stated, “The junior colleges open the opportunity for at least two years of higher education to two groups of young people who had not previously been able to attend college- the economically deprived and those whose high school grades did not qualify them for admission on a competitive basis.”⁵⁴⁵ Traditionally young adults attended the College during the day, but Forrester wanted an evening program to assist non-traditional students. Forrester believed the junior college helped older, non-traditional students who “could not leave work and family to attend a university. The junior college will also make it convenient for persons who have been out of college for years to bring their training up to date.”⁵⁴⁶

⁵⁴³ Ibid.

⁵⁴⁴ In 1970, The University of Alabama partnered with Alabama’s seventeen Junior Colleges to increase the demand of medical careers in Alabama. The Agreement was known as the Regional Technical Institute for Health Occupations. See also, “ESJC-UAB sign agreement on health care students,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, December 17, 1970.

⁵⁴⁵ Benjamin Abb Forrester, “Enterprise State Junior College,” 22 May 1968. Forrester provided six objectives to Dr. H.B. Woodward, Jr., Executive Director Alabama Education Study Commission.

⁵⁴⁶ Ibid.

Finally, Forrester realized the junior colleges and four-year institutions working together would improve education. He believed competition between the four-year and two-year institutions hampered adequate funding to educate Alabama citizens. Forrester believed the “Open-Door Policy” would increase enrollments at the four-year institutions by sending more students through their doors. He believed the junior colleges reduced the workload of college professors who were dedicated to research. Forrester stated, “Professors with valuable qualifications for research and other advanced activities will be freed from responsibilities of beginning students.”⁵⁴⁷ Forrester realized the two-year colleges would not be as effective without the support of four-year colleges. If two-year institutions failed to receive support from four-year institutions, educational problems would continue in Alabama. Forrester believed the four-year colleges could assist Alabama in aiding citizens seeking higher education by stating:

They (the four-year institutions) can set up meetings between their faculty members and instructors of the same subjects at the junior college level, as they are already doing; they can study the personnel needs of the junior colleges and supply them with sufficient number of well-prepared teachers; and they can encourage their top professors to deliver guest lectures and appear on seminars at the junior college. Working together, the three branches of higher education in Alabama- the universities, the four-year colleges and the junior colleges-should be able to advance their mutual cause to an extent never before possible.⁵⁴⁸

Forrester believed that the role of junior colleges was to provide higher education to the masses. If the junior colleges were going to survive, the institutions had to be funded by state legislators and accepted by four-year institutions. If Alabama’s public education system was going to improve, then a plan must be implemented to ensure that, secondary, two-year, and

⁵⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁴⁸ Benjamin Abb Forrester, “Enterprise State Junior College,” 22 May 1968.

four-year institutions provide the best service to the citizens of Alabama. The junior colleges' input on education was overlooked since they did not have a member on the Alabama Education Study Committee. Forrester believed in order for higher education to be improved, communication and acceptance were going to have to be established between junior colleges and four-year colleges.

On May 22, 1968, Forrester submitted the College's responses to Dr. H. B. Woodward, Executive Director Alabama Education Study Commission (AESC).⁵⁴⁹ Forrester stated, "We hope that this information will be of real value to the commission in putting together a plan for a comprehensive education program for the state of Alabama."⁵⁵⁰ Forrester provided input for Enterprise State Junior College, but he also provided information as president of one of the fifteen junior colleges in state.⁵⁵¹

The state junior college presidents provided input to the Alabama Education Study Commission. They focused on four major concerns. First was the need for every public junior

⁵⁴⁹ Dr. H.B. Woodward served as the Executive Director for the Alabama Education Study Commission.

⁵⁵⁰ Benjamin Abb Forrester, personal letter to Dr. H .B. Woodward, 22 May 1968.

⁵⁵¹ By 1968, Alabama consisted of the following of fifteen junior colleges: Alexander City State Junior College, Alexander City, Alabama; Enterprise State Junior College, Enterprise, Alabama; Gadsden State Junior College, Gadsden, Alabama; George C. Wallace State Junior College, Dothan, Alabama; John C. Calhoun State Junior College, Decatur, Alabama; Mobile State Junior College, Mobile, Alabama; Northeast State Junior College, Rainsville, Alabama; Northwest Alabama Junior College, Phil Campbell, Alabama; Patrick Henry State Junior College, Monroeville, Alabama; Jefferson Davis State Junior College, Brewton, Alabama; Jefferson State Junior College, Birmingham, Alabama; Snead State Junior College, Boaz, Alabama; Southern Union State Junior College, Wadley, Alabama; Wenonah State Junior College, Birmingham, Alabama; William Lowndes Yancey State Junior College, Bay Minette, Alabama. Two additional junior colleges were under construction: Lurleen B. Wallace State Junior College in Andalusia, Alabama, and Albert Preston Brewer State Junior College in Fayette, Alabama, were being built and opened in 1969.

college in the state. As the state junior college presidents expressed, “No doubt some of you have heard it said that some of the junior colleges were needed, but others were not. The answer to this question is that the records show that all the junior colleges have grown more than was originally predicated. This indicates that they (the junior colleges) were all needed then and they are all needed now.”⁵⁵² The need for the junior colleges was based on the number of students the junior colleges served. The junior college presidents indicated, “In three years (1965, 1966, and 1967) they have increased from 5,737 to 17,545, an increase 305 percent.”⁵⁵³ This explosive growth had occurred even through funding had decreased.

⁵⁵² *State Presidents Report to the Alabama Education Study Commission*. (1968), 2.

⁵⁵³ *Ibid.*



Figure 5.2. Alabama Junior College Presidents.

Left to right: Byron Causey, Alexander City State Junior College; Dr. Carlton Kelly, John C. Calhoun State Technical Junior College; Dr. Charles Davis, Albert P. Brewer State Junior College; Dr. Lathem Sibert, James H. Faulkner State Junior College; B. E. Lee, Patrick Henry State Junior College; Dr. LeRoy Brown, Jefferson State Junior College; Benjamin Abb Forrester, Enterprise State Junior College, Dr. A. D. Naylor, Gadsden State Junior College; Dr. Walter Graham, Southern Union State Junior College; Woodfin Patterson, Jefferson Davis State Junior College; Theodore Alfred Lawson, T. A. Lawson State Junior College; Dr. S. D. Bishop, Bishop State Junior College; Dr. James Glasgow, Northwest State Junior College.⁵⁵⁴

The presidents' second concern was state appropriations. In 1968, the state provided \$428 per student, a decrease of 39% from 1965 when the state allocated \$703 per student.⁵⁵⁵ The presidents opined that, "... failure to increase appropriations in proportion to growth of enrollment has created series difficulty in the operation of a quality program at the junior colleges."⁵⁵⁶ According to the presidents, the state needed additional funds to support the junior colleges. State allocations were not enough to continue operating fifteen state supported junior

⁵⁵⁴ "The Growing Pain Crisis in our Junior Colleges," *AREA Magazine* March, 1968 Edition.

⁵⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁵⁶ Ibid.

colleges. The presidents recommended additional revenue through “legislation whereby some local support may be obtained from local governmental units.”⁵⁵⁷ The junior college presidents were not the first to recommend to the Alabama Education Study Commission the need for local funding. The need for local funds had been mentioned ten years earlier to the Alabama Education Commission.

In 1958, the Alabama Education Commission had recommended a junior college system that received local funds to operate.⁵⁵⁸ In 1963, the recommendation was not included in Act. 92, the legislation establishing the two-year system. Five years later, in 1968, the state junior college presidents requested local funds to help cover institutional expenses. If local communities provided financial support, the state would not have to cover the operational expenses for the two-year institutions. Local funds could have offset the expenses.

The third issue the state junior college presidents addressed was facilities. By 1968, fifteen state junior colleges facilities included 301 classrooms completed with 16 classrooms under construction; 145 laboratories with 4 laboratories under construction; 392 faculty offices completed with 23 under construction; totaling 838 completed facilities and 43 under construction.⁵⁵⁹ While the state junior colleges contained 838 facilities, this failed to keep pace with the growth in enrollments. As the presidents reported:

⁵⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, 3.

⁵⁵⁸ Alabama Education Commission Report to the Committee on Higher Education (Montgomery: Alabama Education Association, 1958), 170-171.

⁵⁵⁹ Division of Research and Higher Education, Alabama State Department of Education, “Alabama State Junior Colleges.” September 5, 1968, 12.

The junior colleges can be compared to a young married couple who plan their house for one additional child, but find themselves with quadruplets. The mother-in-law moved in with them to help look after the children. This created a crisis in housing needs. They simply need more housing facilities to look after the increased family which was not anticipated. Some of the junior colleges with their growth of over 300 percent in three years have enough buildings for approximately one-half the students but still need to provide for the other half.⁵⁶⁰

The presidents were aware of their enrollment numbers. They predicted the junior college enrollments would continue to grow, by 1977 serving over 47,000 students.⁵⁶¹ The junior colleges could not support these numbers without adequate facilities.

The presidents' fourth concern was reporting to multiple boards. Higher education institutions in Alabama report to different boards. For example the University of Alabama, the state's flagship university, and Auburn University, the state's land grant university, reported to their individual board of trustees. The two-year institutions reported to the Alabama State Board of Education.⁵⁶² All public institutions of higher learning received funding from the Alabama Legislature. All public institutions did not receive equal funding. In order to create equal funding the state junior college presidents recommended one board for all higher education institutions.⁵⁶³ The state junior college presidents believed one board could reduce excessive spending due to duplication of educational programs.

⁵⁶⁰ State Presidents Report to the Alabama Education Study Commission. (1968), 2.

⁵⁶¹ Ibid.

⁵⁶² The Alabama Community College System reported to the Alabama State Board of Education from May 3, 1963 to May 5, 2015. On May 5, 2015, the state legislature reorganized the two-year system to report to an independent board.

⁵⁶³ Ibid. 8.

The state junior college presidents questioned:

Should we have nine separate boards of control for 10 different colleges and universities? That is what we have today. Should the 17 junior colleges be under a board exclusively established to control them, or should each junior college have a separate board of control? Further, should we have one single board for all junior colleges? Should the State Board of Education have jurisdiction over only elementary and secondary education? Should the Board control all higher education? These are legitimate questions which call for serious consideration.⁵⁶⁴

The state junior college presidents' recommended one coordinating board. As the state junior college presidents stated, "We look to the Education Study Commission to help chart a wise course to follow in the future. We look to a coordinating agency for higher education for an equitable distribution of funds on the basis of need."⁵⁶⁵ The state junior college presidents looked for a coordinating agency to assist with funding. They argued for performance based funding. The presidents believed if institutions received state allocations based on performances, then they could receive adequate funding. As *The Dothan Eagle* reported in "Area Junior Colleges Face Drastic Fund Cutback under Proposed Bill,"

The junior colleges are in the early phase of education in Alabama, in fact, which is growing rapidly. Figures of the State Department of Education show that enrollment in the elementary and high schools have reached a peak and are now declining. None of the senior colleges or universities have experienced gains comparable to those of the new junior colleges.⁵⁶⁶

College enrollments continued to increase in Alabama's junior colleges, but the funds to maintain these institutions did not keep up with their growth. While Forrester and the other state

⁵⁶⁴ Ibid. 8. In 1968, only fifteen junior colleges operated in Alabama. Two additional junior colleges were under construction bringing the total to seventeen by 1969.

⁵⁶⁵ Ibid. 10.

⁵⁶⁶ "Area Junior Colleges Face Drastic Fund Cutback under Proposed Bill," *The Dothan Eagle*, July 27, 1967.

junior college presidents provided input to the Alabama Education Study Commission, the Division of Research and Higher Education of the Alabama State Department of Education also reported on the junior colleges.

On September 5, 1968, The Division of Research and Higher Education of the Alabama State Department of Education (DRHE) provided the “Alabama State Junior Colleges” report to the Alabama Education Study Commission.⁵⁶⁷ The “Alabama State Junior Colleges” report represented data collected from public two-year junior colleges. DRHE presented six conditions the junior colleges needed to be successful. These conditions included: an open-door admission policy; a range of educational opportunities; an extensive student personnel services program; capable and committed staff; low student cost; and a sensitivity to community needs.⁵⁶⁸ To be successful, the state junior colleges needed more funding. As the junior college system had exploded in the previous five years (1963-1968), fifteen state junior colleges operated in Alabama.⁵⁶⁹ Why did legislators need to fund these junior colleges adequately? DRHE intended to answer this question in their report.

The Department of Research and Higher Education (DRHE) focused on the growth and popularity of the two-year institutions throughout the state. As indicated in the report, Alabama State Junior Colleges enrolled 5,737 students in 1965 and anticipated 47,126 students by 1977.⁵⁷⁰

⁵⁶⁷ Division of Research and Higher Education, Alabama State Department of Education, “Alabama State Junior Colleges.” September 5, 1968.

⁵⁶⁸ Ibid. 1-3.

⁵⁶⁹ Legislation passed in 1967 for two additional state junior colleges resulted in a loss of \$60,000 per junior college to build Lurleen B. Wallace State Junior College in Andalusia, Alabama and Albert Preston Brewer State Junior College in Fayette, Alabama.

⁵⁷⁰ Ibid. Table I, 6.

DRHE identified the largest growth of college enrollments increased at the junior college level. If the above projections proved correct, many four-year institutions could anticipate increased enrollments. The report continued by comparing southeastern and national averages of students attending institutions of higher learning from 1964-1967. During 1964-1967, Alabama ranked first in the southeast with a 57.9% increase of students attending college.⁵⁷¹ During this three-year period, Alabama's junior colleges enrollment increased from 5,737 in 1965 to 15,174 in 1967.⁵⁷²

On a national level, Alabama ranked fourth in increased enrollments (57.9%). Only Hawaii (75.3%), New Hampshire (64.4%), and Washington (59.6%) had a greater percentage increase in enrollments.⁵⁷³ During these years, 1964-1967, enrollments increased, building projects were completed, employment increased, and funding decreased. Due to the growth of the two-year system, the Department of Research and Higher Education (DRHE) did not understand why they did not have a member on the Alabama Education Study Commission (AESC). If the AESC failed to provide state legislatures with the DRHE view that junior colleges provided an opportunity to attend an institution of higher learning, then the DRHE hoped the legislature's viewed the junior colleges as a place to prepare a trained workforce.

The Department of Research and Higher Education (DRHE) reported on training the workforce. DRHE quoted Norman C. Harris's 1964 report on *Technical Education in the Junior*

⁵⁷¹ Ibid. 18.

⁵⁷² Ibid. 8.

⁵⁷³ Ibid. 18.

*College: New Programs for New Jobs.*⁵⁷⁴ The report emphasized Harris' view of two-year education from 1930-1970:

In 1930, 58 percent of the occupations required an education of grade school or less, 32 percent a high school or vocational school education, and only 10 percent required some college. By 1970, Mr. Harris projects that 18 percent of our occupations will require an education at the baccalaureate or higher level, 26 percent at the high school or vocational school level, only 6 percent at the grade school level and 50 percent of our occupations will require an education at the junior college level.⁵⁷⁵

DHRE wanted the Alabama Education Study Commission (AESC) to hear from leaders of the two-year institutions. Two-year institution leaders had not been appointed to serve on the AESC. DHRE informed the AESC of the enrollment trends and predictions the junior colleges faced in the future. If anticipated enrollments reached 47,126 by 1977, it was imperative for the AESC to know the challenges junior colleges faced.

Governor Brewer received the Alabama Education Study Commission's report in January 1969.⁵⁷⁶ Brewer wasted little time outlining his educational reforms. On April 1, 1969, Brewer called the legislature back into Special Session.⁵⁷⁷ The Alabama Legislature listened to Governor Brewer present his educational reforms. The pinnacle of his reforms focused on

⁵⁷⁴ Ibid.1; Norman C. Harris. *Technical Education in the Junior College: New Programs for New Jobs* (Washington, D.C.: The American Association of Junior Colleges, 1964), 27.

⁵⁷⁵ Ibid.1. Norman C. Harris. *Technical Education in the Junior College: New Programs for New Jobs*. (Washington, D.C.: The American Association of Junior Colleges, 1964), 27.

⁵⁷⁶ "Legislative Session Call Expected Today," *The Tuscaloosa News*, March 24, 1969.

⁵⁷⁷ Gordon E. Harvey, *A Question of Justice: New South Governors and Education, 1968-1976*. (Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 2002), 58; Louis Eckl, "Albert Brewer Story: Typical American," *The Florence Times*, March 23, 1970.

creating the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE). ACHE “shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Legislature and the Governor of this State in respect to all matters pertaining to state funds for the operation and the allocation of funds for capital improvements of state supported institutions of higher learning.”⁵⁷⁸ By establishing ACHE, Brewer’s intent was to decrease the academic programs lobbied by four-year universities.⁵⁷⁹ If ACHE could minimize the duplication of academic programs, Brewer felt Alabama’s educational system could save money.

Brewer noted two-year schools “were not seen as a serious problem [lobbying for academic programs] and had he been asked he would have answered that they [two-year institutions] fell under the commission’s jurisdiction, but the issue never arose.”⁵⁸⁰ Since ACHE’s role was not clearly defined, the Commission lacked authority over institutions of higher learning, including two-year institutions.

The problem the Alabama Commission on Higher Education faced was its role in advising. The interpretation of the law, as an advising agency, was considered “vague language” because it stated ACHE would be “responsible for advising the Legislature on matters concerning all aspects of higher learning from the junior college to the graduate level.”⁵⁸¹ The

⁵⁷⁸ *Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives*, reg. sess., 1969, 27-35. See also “Alabama Commission on Higher Education,” accessed June 17, 2015, <http://www.ache.state.al.us/Content/About%20Us/Other.aspx>.

⁵⁷⁹ Permaloff and Grafton, *The more things change...*, 280.

⁵⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸¹ *Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives*, reg. sess., 1969, 27-35. See also “Alabama Commission on Higher Education,” accessed June 17, 2015, <http://www.ache.state.al.us/Content/About%20Us/Other.aspx>.

word advising did not provide any authority for ACHE. The real power lay in the Alabama Legislature which controlled the funding of higher education. ACHE lacked authority over the two-year colleges.⁵⁸² The Alabama Commission on Higher Education lacked authority to address the duplication problems in the state.⁵⁸³ When Brewer lost his election bid for a full term as governor in 1970, ACHE lacked the support it needed to hold institutions of higher education accountable. When George Wallace was re-elected in 1970, in what is considered the dirtiest election in American politics, ACHE lost its chief supporter in Brewer.⁵⁸⁴ It would take another ten years, 1979, before ACHE received any authority.⁵⁸⁵

Governor Brewer provided one more important reform in education. Brewer received approval, in a constitutional amendment, to remove the Governors' power to appoint a state school board.⁵⁸⁶ The Alabama State Board of Education would no longer be appointed by the governor. Instead the state school board would be elected by the people. An elected school board was aimed at removing the governors' power, such as that exercised by former Governor George C. Wallace, who stacked the state school board with his supporters.⁵⁸⁷

⁵⁸² Permaloff and Grafton, *The more things change....*, 280.

⁵⁸³ Wayne Flynt, *Alabama in the 20th Century* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2004), 243.

⁵⁸⁴ Steve Flowers, *Of Goats and Governor*. (Montgomery: New South Books, 2015) 70-73.

⁵⁸⁵ In 1979, the Alabama Legislature passed ACT 79-461, which allowed ACHE the authority to approve new programs of instruction. See "Alabama Commission on Higher Education," accessed June 17, 2015, <http://www.ache.state.al.us/Content/About%20Us/Other.aspx>.

⁵⁸⁶ "State School Board," *The Gadsden Times*, December 9, 1984.

⁵⁸⁷ Katsinas, "George Wallace," 449.

On June 5, 1969, Forrester recognized the importance Brewer had made in educational reform during Enterprise State Junior College's 1969 Commencement. Governor Brewer was the key note speaker. Forrester thanked Brewer "for his leadership in upgrading the educational program in the state" during the special session.⁵⁸⁸ Forrester acknowledged the reforms Brewer pushed through the legislature as "building blocks for the future."⁵⁸⁹ Brewer encouraged the seventy-seven graduates to "find new directions, new approaches to age old problems."⁵⁹⁰ It seems Brewer was speaking from experience. As governor, Brewer faced the same old problems for funding education. However, in his attempt to solve funding problems, Governor Brewer moved in a new direction. His new approach pushed for educational reforms to hold institutions of higher learning accountable. If institutions of higher learning were more accountable and efficient, then Brewer believed less money would be wasted in higher education.

While Governor Brewer was working with the Alabama Legislature towards higher standards of accountability, Forrester was working with Governor Brewer and the Alabama Legislature on funding a student center. Forrester expressed the need for a student center due to increased enrollments and predicted enrollments of over a 1,000 students by 1969. Forrester stated, "This is a much needed addition to the campus. It will give students who are here all day a home base on the campus- a place where they can go to relax when they are not in classes."⁵⁹¹ By the end of the decade, ESJC enrollment was 1050 students.⁵⁹² Governor Brewer

⁵⁸⁸ "Brewer Speaker for Graduation at Enterprise," *The Dothan Eagle*, June 6, 1969.

⁵⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁵⁹¹ "Enterprise College Slated for Center," *The Dothan Eagle*, July 2, 1968.

⁵⁹² *The ESJC Fact Book*, 27.

acknowledged the increased growth by stating, “This is a much needed addition at Enterprise State Junior College, where the student population has increased at an amazing rate.”⁵⁹³ Within five years of opening its doors for higher education, ESJC’s enrollment increased from 256 to 1050 students.⁵⁹⁴ Governor Brewer, along with Representative Drexel Cook and Senator Ray Lolley, announced bids should be submitted by August 8, 1968.⁵⁹⁵ On August 13, 1968, Clark Hardware Company was awarded the contract to build the 25,000 square foot student center.⁵⁹⁶ The Clark Hardware Company provided the lowest bid of \$561,105 to build the student center.⁵⁹⁷ The Student Center was the fifth building on campus. The Lurleen B. Wallace Student Center was dedicated in honor of former Governor Lurleen B. Wallace (1967-May 1968), the only woman to serve as Governor of Alabama.

Federal Programs Increase Enrollments and Programs at ESJC

On June 19, 1968, the United States Congress passed the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Street Act (OCCSSA). The OCCSSA stated,

It is therefore the declared policy of the Congress to assist State and local governments in strengthening and improving law enforcement at every level by national assistance. It is

⁵⁹³ “Gov. Brewer Gives Go-Ahead on Construction at ESJC Student Center,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, July 4, 1968.

⁵⁹⁴ *ESJC Fact Book*, 27.

⁵⁹⁵ “Gov. Brewer Gives Go-Ahead on Construction at ESJC Student Center,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, July 4, 1968.

⁵⁹⁶ “Red Level Firm Low Bidder on ESJC Student Center-Cafeteria Contract,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 18, 1968.

⁵⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

the purpose of this title to (1) encourage States and units of general local government to prepare and adopt comprehensive plans based upon their evaluation of State and local problems of law enforcement; (2) authorize grants to States and units of local government in order to improve and strengthen law enforcement; and (3) encourage research and development directed toward the improvement of law enforcement and the development of new methods for the prevention and reduction of crime and the detection and apprehension of criminals.⁵⁹⁸

By Congress “authorizing grants to State and units of local government in order to improve and strengthen law enforcement,” Enterprise State Junior College was able to apply and receive funding to offer an Associate in Applied Science in Police Science in 1969.⁵⁹⁹ President Lyndon Johnson’s program provided financial assistance to train law enforcement officials. The State of Alabama received \$190,300 to assist law enforcement officials.⁶⁰⁰ The Police Science Degree was established when Enterprise State Junior College received \$9,100 in state grant funds to support local law enforcers in preventing crime and educating local law officers.⁶⁰¹ Forrester appointed thirteen local area police officers to a committee on the program to ensure the College met the police department’s needs. Those serving on the Police Science Program Committee included: Tom Potts, Troy Police Chief; Captain William Hornsby, Commander of the Dothan District State Department of Public Safety; Mayor Hugh Herring, Jr., Mayor of Geneva, AL; M. N. Brown, Mayor of Enterprise, AL; Col. Frank E. Hern, Provost Marshall at Ft. Rucker, AL; Circuit Judge Jack Wallace, Clayton, AL; Sherriff H.D. Tullman, Elba, AL; Police Chief Joseph Gallo, Daleville, AL; Tom A. Goff, of Ozark, AL; Detective Lieutenant J.E. Deal, Dothan, AL;

⁵⁹⁸ Public Law 90-351; 82 STAT. 197, Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Street Act, accessed July 17, 2015, https://transition.fcc.gov/Bureaus/OSEC/library/legislative_histories/1615.pdf.

⁵⁹⁹ Ibid.; “ESJC to Offer Degree Prog. in Police Science,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, January 9, 1969.

⁶⁰⁰ “ESJC Receives ‘Crime Control’ Study Money,” *The Dothan Eagle*, January 9, 1969.

⁶⁰¹ Ibid.

Chief Howard Murdock, Chief of Enterprise Police Department, Enterprise, AL; Joe Tom Masters, State Investigator, Dothan, AL; Chairman Bill Baxley, District Attorney, Dothan, AL.⁶⁰²

Table 5.4. Police Science Program Committee members.⁶⁰³

Tom Potts	Troy Police Chief
Captain William Hornsby	Commander of the Dothan District State Department of Public Safety
Mayor Hugh Herring, Jr.	Mayor of Geneva, AL.
M.N. Brown	Mayor of Enterprise, AL.
Col. Frank E. Hern,	Provost Marshall at Ft. Rucker, AL.
Circuit Judge Jack Wallace	Clayton, AL.
Sherriff H.D. Tullman	Elba, AL.
Police Chief Joseph Gallo	Daleville, AL.
Tom A. Goff	Ozark, AL.
Detective Lieutenant J.E. Deal	Dothan, AL.
Chief Howard Murdock	Chief of Enterprise Police Department, Enterprise, AL.
Joe Tom Masters	State Investigator, Dothan, AL.
Chairman Bill Baxley	District Attorney, Dothan, AL.

⁶⁰² “Chief Potts to Aid Planning for Police Science Program,” *The Troy Messenger*, January 7, 1969.

⁶⁰³ “Chief Potts to Aid Planning for Police Science Program,” *The Troy Messenger*, January 7, 1969.

Forrester relied on the advice from the Committee Members, but also consulted the curriculum offered at Jefferson Davis State Junior College located in Birmingham, AL.⁶⁰⁴ In August 1970, Forrester hired retired FBI Agent John Dill to serve as the Director of the Law Enforcement Program.⁶⁰⁵ Dill was responsible for training police officers throughout the Seventh Regional Law Enforcement District of Alabama.⁶⁰⁶ In Dill's first year as Director of Law Enforcement, forty-five police officers received training under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Street Act (OCCSSA).⁶⁰⁷ The College assisted local law enforcement agencies throughout the state by providing a central library to house law enforcement training books.⁶⁰⁸

The Police Science Program proved to be a success. Within five years, it expanded into the Criminal Justice Program. By offering a Criminal Justice Program, ESJC provided more educational opportunities for students seeking careers in law enforcement, criminal investigations, and forensics. As Comer Carpenter, Director of the Criminal Justice Department stated in 1975, "We have expanded our program since 1969 and now place more emphasis upon training for positions in our court system, and in correctional areas such as probation officers, prison officials, parole officers, etc."⁶⁰⁹ The Criminal Justice Program increased opportunities for

⁶⁰⁴ "ESJC to Offer Degree Prog. In Police Science," *The Enterprise Ledger*, January 9, 1969.

⁶⁰⁵ "ESJC Employs FBI Agent," *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 12, 1970.

⁶⁰⁶ Ibid. The Seventh Regional Law Enforcement District included the following seven counties: Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Dale, Geneva, Henry, and Houston.

⁶⁰⁷ "State to Open Toxicology Lab Here to Serve Ten Counties," *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 7, 1970.

⁶⁰⁸ "Lill Tells Law Enforcement Officials of Agency," *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 8, 1970.

⁶⁰⁹ "Police Science is Big at ESJC Home of Regional Crime Lab & Southeastern Police Academy," *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 29, 1975.

learning outside of crime and law by adding a crime lab, which trained students in forensic science. An *Enterprise Ledger* article, noted that the College provided services “to local law enforcement agencies [which] would include autopsies of murder and homicide victims, drug analyses, [and] development of evidence through scientific laboratory test.”⁶¹⁰ The Crime Lab assisted law enforcement agencies in ten counties.

The Enterprise Crime Lab assisted students seeking knowledge in forensic sciences. Instead of patrolling the streets or working directly with criminals, the Regional Crime Lab assisted “investigators at scenes of crimes, analyzing drugs, and examine firearms and other items of evidence.”⁶¹¹ Without the assistance of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Street Act, ESJC would not have been involved in the Police Science Program. By the federal government’s providing additional grant dollars, new programs, classes, and sites were opened at ESJC. By 1974, 252 degrees and certificates had been awarded to students pursuing criminal justice courses in Phenix City, Eufaula, Andalusia, Opp, Greenville, and Samson.⁶¹² The OCCSSA allowed ESJC to offer criminal justice courses to citizens interested in law, crime and forensics. The Police Science Program would not be the only program ESJC expanded.

⁶¹⁰ “Enterprise Selected as Site for Regional Crime Laboratory,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, October 6, 1970.

⁶¹¹ “Crime Lab to Be Housed In ESJC Student Center,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, October 14, 1970.

⁶¹² “Police Science is Big at ESJC Home of Regional Crime Lab & Southeastern Police Academy,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 29, 1975.

Ending the 60s and Rolling in the 70s

The 1960s, ended on a high note for Enterprise State Junior College. As college personnel and students were preparing for the Christmas Holidays, the College learned on December 3, 1969, that Enterprise State Junior College had received accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).⁶¹³ As noted in the Enterprise State Junior College Catalog, 1971-1972, "... the Southern Association declared Enterprise State Junior College accredited and its diploma valid wherever the standards of the accrediting agency are recognized. The action meant that past, present and future graduates of Enterprise State Junior College could transfer credits to any college or university in the United States and have them accepted virtually without question."⁶¹⁴ By the College's receiving SACS endorsement, citizens were assured the College's educational programs provided quality education.

While the College received SACS approval on December 3, 1969, earlier in that year it also learned the outcome of the first transfer and graduates who attended ESJC in 1965-1967. On June 30, 1969, Gerald Leischuh, Director of Auburn University's Office of Institutional Research and Frederick Wray, Assistant of Auburn University's Office of Institutional Research, released Auburn University's *The Junior College Transfer Student at Auburn*.⁶¹⁵ Auburn University tracked all junior college students who transferred to their institution.⁶¹⁶ Enterprise

⁶¹³ *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog 1971-1972*, p. 17.

⁶¹⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶¹⁵ Gerald S. Leischuh and Frederick E. Wray, *The Junior College Transfer Student at Auburn*. (Auburn, 1969).

⁶¹⁶ "ESJC Students Rank Highest at Auburn," *The Enterprise Ledger*, December 1, 1970.

State had transferred 107 students to Auburn University since 1965.⁶¹⁷ According to *The Enterprise Ledger*, “In the study just released, ESJC transfers to Auburn ranked highest among all Alabama junior college transfers after one quarter at Auburn.”⁶¹⁸ Forrester appreciated the compliment. The success of the transfer students continued throughout Forrester’s tenure. As noted in a personal letter to Mr. Forrester from Dr. Vincent S. Haneman, Jr., Dean of the School of Engineering at Auburn,

As Dean of the School of Engineering at Auburn University, I wish to express my appreciation for the good relationship Enterprise State Junior College has had with our school. From the beginning of its existence, Enterprise State has been preparing students for our curricula. We have kept detailed records since 1967 of the performance of your students who have transferred to the School of Engineering. It is well to note that on the average your students have performed considerable better than the students who began as freshman here and better, also, than transfers from most other institutions. We certainly feel that the two years there gave them more than adequate preparation for our rigorous curricula.⁶¹⁹

Forrester would continue to lead the College in the 1970s. During this decade, the College offered a joint program with the Alabama Institution of Aviation Training, faced the possibility of merging with Troy State University, complied with the Higher Education Act Amendments of 1972, received national recognition with the Debate Team, and grew an athletic program. The president also continually protected Enterprise State Junior College against critics wanting the state system of junior colleges merged with other two-year institutions or reporting to a different governing board.

⁶¹⁷ Ibid.

⁶¹⁸ Ibid.

⁶¹⁹ “Auburn Dean Says ESJC Prepares Students Well,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, December 3, 1972.

A Joint Program: ESJC and AIAT.

On May 3, 1963, the Alabama Legislature passed Act 93 establishing the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority. Act 93 created a dual system of two-year colleges. The new system focused on the technical two-year institutions called the Division of Vocational and Higher Education.⁶²⁰ The junior colleges reported to the Division of Research and Higher Education.⁶²¹ The dual system lasted until 1976 when it was merged into the Division of Postsecondary Education.⁶²² Prior to 1976, the dual system held different missions. The trade schools provided workforce training, and the junior colleges offered the first two years of academics. Governor George C. Wallace acknowledged the difference for establishing the junior colleges and technical institutes by stating, “Initially, Alabama's community junior colleges were to concentrate on programs which prepared students to transfer to the universities, with the technical institutes responsible for occupational training.”⁶²³ The dual system allowed junior college students to earn an associate’s degree. The trade schools awarded diplomas, but did not offer any academic coursework. A lack of academic training created, according to Governor Wallace, “A system of separate community junior colleges and technical institutes [that] cannot respond effectively to the educational needs of a growing economy. A system of community oriented, comprehensive education is needed. The capabilities of academic and occupational

⁶²⁰ Mark A. Heinrich, “Alabama,” in *Fifty State Systems of Community Colleges Mission, Governance, Funding, and Accountability*, ed. Janice Nahra Friedel et al., (Johnson City Tennessee: Overmountain Press, 2014), 1-6.

⁶²¹ E. B. Moore, Jr. *Organizing the Alabama State Junior College System for the Seventies*. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 1973), 7-8.

⁶²² Heinrich, “Alabama,” 1-6.

⁶²³ George C. Wallace, “The People’s Colleges: Best Buy on Education Market” *Community College Review* 1 (1973): 14-17.

education should be developed through cooperation rather than fragmented by needless competition.”⁶²⁴ In order for technical students to receive academic coursework, technical colleges needed to partner with junior colleges. A partnership formed between Enterprise State Junior College and the Alabama Institute of Aviation Training to provide academics for technical students. Each institution had different missions. According to the 1965 *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog*, “Enterprise State Junior College is a state-supported institution offering two years of college work.”⁶²⁵

According to the *Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology 1965-1966 General Catalog*, the institution “is dedicated to training of personnel for successful employment in various aviation maintenance and technical positions.”⁶²⁶ A clear difference between the two systems

⁶²⁴ Ibid.

⁶²⁵ *Enterprise State Junior College General Catalog 1965-66*. (Montgomery: Walker Printing Company, 1965), 2.

⁶²⁶ *Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology General Catalog 1965-1966* (Ozark, 1965), 6. The Alabama Institute of Aviation Training, started in 1954 by the Ozark City Board of Education, offered Aircraft Maintenance classes to support the Army Aviation Maintenance Center at Ft. Rucker, Alabama. Between 1954-1961, the Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology operated with funds received by the State Vocation Education Department. In 1961, the school received its first state appropriations. From its beginning, the Alabama Institute of Aviation Training was supported and governed by the Ozark City Board of Education. On August 10, 1962 the school was notified the Aircraft Mechanics Program received approval from the Federal Aviation Agency. On September 8, 1963, the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority assumed control of the school. On August 22, 1973, the Alabama Institute of Aviation Training was renamed the Alabama Aviation and Technical College. The Alabama Aviation and Technical College expanded to include a campus in Mobile, Alabama. By 1991, the College was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In 1996, the Alabama Aviation and Technical College merged with George C. Wallace Community College. The merger changed the name of the Alabama Aviation and Technical College to the Alabama Aviation Center in Ozark and the Alabama Aviation Center at Mobile. In 2003, Enterprise State Junior College and the Aviation Center in Ozark and Mobile merged to form Enterprise-Ozark Community College. In 2009, Enterprise-Ozark Community College was renamed to Enterprise State Community College. Today the aviation campuses that formed the Alabama Aviation and Technical College are known as the Alabama Aviation Center, Ozark, and the Alabama Aviation

was the junior colleges offered transfer programs and awarded associate in arts and science degrees. The technical schools offered technical programs and awarded diplomas and certificates, but no degrees. The difference between the associate's degree and diploma is academic coursework. As E. B. Moore, Jr., Director, Higher Education Branch Division of Vocational, Technical, and Higher Education for the Alabama State Department of Education, stated in his study of the two-year institutions in Alabama, "Academic offerings by technical institutes have been limited to those related and necessary to the skills being taught."⁶²⁷ In other words, the diploma was focused on the required technical courses needed in a specific field. In order to assist technical students with earning an associate's degree, Enterprise State Junior College and the Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology partnered to establish a joint degree program: an associate in applied science degree.

In 1971 Enterprise State Junior College (ESJC) and the Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology (AIAT) agreed to work together to allow technical students to enroll in academic courses and earn an Associate in Applied Science Degree. Forrester, along with Troy C. Tullis, Director of the Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology, recognized the significance of offering academic courses in Ozark. As Forrester stated, "the general education courses will be open to anyone in the Ozark area who wishes to begin taking college credit, whether or not he would be taking aviation courses."⁶²⁸ By ESJC and AIAT offering a joint program, Ozark

Center, Mobile, a unit of Enterprise State Community College. The Alabama Aviation Center in Ozark, formerly the Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology, started a partnership with Enterprise State Junior College in 1971.

⁶²⁷ E. B. Moore, Jr. *Organizing the Alabama State Junior College System*, 3-5.

⁶²⁸ "2-Year Assoc. Degree Prog. Offered by ESJC-AIAT," *The Southern Star*, May 13, 1971.

residents were offered traditional academic courses in Ozark. Until 1971, Ozark residents traveled to ESJC or George C. Wallace State Community College (Dothan, Alabama) for academic coursework. ESJC offered the additional seven academic courses in order for students to complete the Associate in Applied Science Degree. According to the *Enterprise State Junior Catalog 1971-1972*, “A student in this program may receive the degree (Associate in Applied Science) by completing 31 hours of general education offered by ESJC.”⁶²⁹

While the joint degree program included only two programs (Aviation Maintenance and Avionics) in the beginning, by the end of 1971, two additional programs were added.⁶³⁰ According to the Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology General Catalog 1972-1973, “Enterprise State Junior College, in cooperation with the Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology, offers the Associate in Applied Science Degree for the following programs: (1) Aviation Maintenance Technology, (2) Avionics Technology, (3) Aerospace Drafting and Design Technology, and (4) Flight Technology.”⁶³¹ The joint program was a first in the history of the two-year system. Dr. LeRoy Brown, State Superintendent of Education, “hoped more schools would enact similar programs.”⁶³² Dr. Brown praised both institutional leaders “by complimenting both Forrester and Tullis on this effective use of state facilities to provide for the needs of these communities.”⁶³³ The joint program between ESJC and AIAT culminated with the

⁶²⁹ *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog 1971-1972* (Enterprise: 1971), 40-44.

⁶³⁰ “Two More Degrees Added to Joint AIAT, ESJC Program,” *The Southern Star*, June 17, 1971.

⁶³¹ *Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology General Catalog 1972-1973* (Ozark: 1972), 6.

⁶³² “Ozark, Enterprise Schools Join in Degree Work,” *The Dothan Eagle*, May 23, 1971.

⁶³³ “Two More Degrees,” *The Southern Star*, June 17, 1971.

first ten students graduating on June 2, 1972. According to the Official Enterprise State Junior College News Release, “For the first time in the junior college history ten Associate Degrees in Applied Science will be awarded to students who participated in the cooperative program between the junior college and Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology at Ozark. These students were given 65 quarter hours of credit for the completion of Aviation Institute graduation requirements and earned 31 quarter hours college credit in evening classes sponsored by ESJC at the Ozark Institute.”⁶³⁴

The cooperation between ESJC and AIAT reflected the need to provide academic coursework for technical students. The partnership created a working relationship, between a junior college and technical college, to meet the needs of students. If Forrester had failed to offer academic courses, many aviation students would not have had the opportunity to earn an Associate in Applied Science Degree.

⁶³⁴ “Dr. LeRoy Brown to Address Graduates at ESJC Commencement,” *Enterprise State Junior College News Release*, May 16, 1972.

Table 5.5. First graduates from the Joint Program between ESJC and the Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology.⁶³⁵

Associate in Applied Science- Aviation Maintenance Technology:

Patrick Conarton- Ozark, AL.

Associates in Applied Science in Avionics Technology:

Wayne Couto-Enterprise, AL.

Associate in Applied Science in General Aviation Technology:

Eurice Omar Adcock-	Enterprise, AL.
James L. Armstrong-	Enterprise, AL.
Frank Roland Fanning-	Greenville, AL.
George Harold Ferguson-	Daleville, AL.
Paul W. Krause-	Ozark, AL.
Lawrence Lewis-	Ft. Rucker, AL.
Joseph R. Stroud-	Ozark, AL.
Ivy C. Whittaker-	Ozark, AL.

⁶³⁵ Dr. LeRoy Brown Addresses Graduates at ESJC Commencement,” *Enterprise Ledger*, June 5, 1972.

Merger with Troy State University

While Forrester worked on a partnership with the Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology, rumors surfaced in November 1971, of a potential merger of Enterprise State Junior College with Troy State University (today Troy University).⁶³⁶ According to *The Daily Ledger*, “The Enterprise Chamber of Commerce has, for the past two weeks, been exploring the advantages and disadvantages of a potential merger between Troy State University and Enterprise State Junior College. If such a merger took place Enterprise Junior College would become a four-year institution of higher learning.”⁶³⁷ When the City of Enterprise was approached to merge the College with Troy State University (TSU), a committee was formed to determine if the merger was positive or negative for Enterprise.⁶³⁸ The Committee, appointed by the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce President, Dr. Wallace Miller, included the following: R. P. McLaurin, Ted Avrett, Jerry Brunson, Mayor M. N. Brown, Ross Cotter, Jr. and Carl Griffin.⁶³⁹ The Committee had one task: “to seek pertinent information on the advantages and disadvantages [of merging with Troy State University] in the best interest of the city of Enterprise.”⁶⁴⁰ The committee was supposed to gather the facts, present the facts, and then allow

⁶³⁶ Shoffner, *Dateline: Enterprise*, 84.

⁶³⁷ “Merger ESJC-TSU Discussed,” *The Daily Ledger*, November 24, 1974.

⁶³⁸ Roy Shoffner, “Four Year College... or Not?” *The Daily Ledger*, December 7, 1971.

⁶³⁹ Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, Minutes of Board of Directors and Jr. College Committee, Joint Meeting, December 13, 1971. See also “Merger ESJC-TSU Discussed,” *The Daily Ledger*, November 24, 1974.

⁶⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

the Chamber of Commerce and the City Council to decide on whether the College should merge with TSU.

Table 5.6. ESJC/TSU Fact-Finding Committee at ESJC, 1971.⁶⁴¹

R. P. McLaurin

Ted Avrett,

Jerry Brunson

Mayor M. N. Brown

Ross Cotter, Jr.

Carl Griffin

Many citizens of Enterprise were excited about the possibility of becoming a four-year institution. If ESJC merged with Troy, it would be able to offer the junior and senior level coursework offered at four-year institutions of higher learning. However, not all citizens wanted Enterprise to become a branch campus for Troy State University (TSU). In an anonymous letter, “Should ESJC Become a Branch?” written to *The Daily Ledger*, an ESJC employee discussed the advantage and disadvantages of joining Troy State University.⁶⁴² According to the letter, the advantage for merging would be Enterprise received the ability to offer coursework available at four-year colleges.⁶⁴³ Enterprise, however, would only gain this one advantage by merging. What would Enterprise State Junior College lose by becoming a branch campus? What would be the

⁶⁴¹ Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, Minutes of Board of Directors and Jr. College Committee, Joint Meeting, December 13, 1971. See also “Merger ESJC-TSU Discussed,” *The Daily Ledger*, November 24, 1974.

⁶⁴² “Should ESJC Become a Branch?” *The Daily Ledger*, December 2, 1974.

⁶⁴³ Ibid.

disadvantages? First, the College would lose its identity. As the article noted, “certainly it [a four-year college] would be desirable in Enterprise, but would a branch be the answer?”⁶⁴⁴ The City of Enterprise would no longer have the College it planned as a private junior college in the spring of 1963, had competed for during the summer of 1963, and was awarded on October 9, 1963. It would no longer be Enterprise State Junior College. Instead, it would be a part of TSU. Enterprise State Junior College would become Troy State University-Enterprise.

In contrast, the City of Enterprise served, and still does today, as the main campus for Enterprise State Community College, Enterprise would lose its main campus status to Troy, Alabama, the main campus for Troy State University. As the letter stated, “ESJC would no longer be a community college but would be under the control of the Board of Trustees of TSU who would certainly consider their home campus first in all transactions with the Enterprise branch and they would have the final say as to what would be or would not be done in Enterprise.”⁶⁴⁵ The letter clearly argued against merging with Troy State. It noted a four-year institution would increase costs, lose the associate in applied science agreement with the Alabama Institute of Aviation Training, terminate the Police Science Program, and decrease local wiregrass area students who would enroll at Lurleen B. Wallace State Junior College (Andalusia, AL) or George C. Wallace State Community College (Dothan, AL).⁶⁴⁶ The letter

⁶⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁴⁶ Ibid. George C. Community College, located in Dothan, Alabama is thirty miles east of Enterprise, Alabama. Lurleen B. Wallace State Junior College in Andalusia, Alabama is forty-eight miles west of Enterprise, Alabama.

concluded that ESJC better served the community as a junior college than becoming a branch campus for Troy State University.

A merger with Troy State University would have created unneeded competition between Enterprise State and Troy State University over recruiting students. Troy is only thirty-five miles from Enterprise, and as William H. Smith, Guest Editor for *The Daily Ledger*, stated, “...we should consider asking ourselves is there a real, honest-to-goodness need in this state for another public, tax-supported four-year institution. Specifically, is there a need for such an institution here in Enterprise where we are little more than 30 minutes away from Troy State’s main campus?”⁶⁴⁷ One problem the people of Enterprise never addressed was, would the Alabama State Board of Education (ASBE) and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) allow Troy State University to merge with Enterprise State Junior College? On January 7, 1972, Carl Griffin, Executive Vice President of the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, wrote a letter to Frank T. Speed, Director Division of Research and Higher Education, requesting “any assistance you our your office might lend us in this important review.”⁶⁴⁸ Griffin stated:

Discussions were sparked by an idea that would merge Troy State University with Enterprise State Junior College. The results of these discussions have led us to a standstill as to the exact educational needs of our immediate area that would be served by a four-year college. Basically the issue appears to be between the advantages of the vocational institution as we now have in our junior college and that of a four year institution as could be provided by Troy or other such institutions through a branch campus operation.⁶⁴⁹

⁶⁴⁷ William H. Smith, “About the Junior College,” *The Daily Ledger*, December 8, 1971.

⁶⁴⁸ Carl Griffin, Executive Vice-President of the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, personal letter to Frank T. Speed, Director Research and Higher Education, State Department of Education, Montgomery, AL, January 7, 1972.

⁶⁴⁹ Ibid.

On January 26, 1972, Griffin received a response from Speed who stated:

I have discussed this matter [ESJC becoming a four-year institution] with Dr. Brown [Dr. LeRoy Brown, State Superintendent of Education], and we feel that the present structure of the educational program at Enterprise State Junior College should continue. We also feel that it could be possible that some mutual arrangements could be made between the two institutions mentioned but hasten to say that the junior college is serving a definite purpose in the community and should in no way lose its identity or be overshadowed by offerings or arrangements that could be made in cooperation with Troy State University.⁶⁵⁰

One thing is certain. The citizens of Enterprise raised \$65,000 to purchase the land and felt ownership of the College. The people of Enterprise felt they had the right to agree or disagree to merge. The idea to merge two-year schools with four-year colleges was not new. It was not the first time the idea of a junior college merging with a four-year school had surfaced. According to *The Tuscaloosa News*, Attorney General Bill Baxley already struck down the idea that Gadsden State Junior College could expand into a four-year university.⁶⁵¹ Attorney General Baxley concluded that the Alabama State Board of Education (ASBE) did not have the authority to expand two-year colleges into four-year institutions.⁶⁵² Gadsden State Junior College was not the only two-year college looking to expand; by 1971 Snead State Junior College, Jefferson Davis State Junior College, and Northwest Alabama State Junior College had tried to expand to a four-year university or establish an upper junior and senior level coursework.⁶⁵³ Attorney

⁶⁵⁰ Frank T. Speed, Director Research and Higher Education State Department of Education, Montgomery, AL, personal letter to Carl Griffin, Executive Vice-President of the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise, AL, January 26, 1972.

⁶⁵¹ "Education Master Plan Is Needed," *The Tuscaloosa News*, July 27, 1971.

⁶⁵² Ibid.

⁶⁵³ "Other Junior Colleges Seeking 4-year Status," *The Gadsden Times*, July 28, 1971.

General Baxley ruled the Alabama State Board of Education and the individual junior colleges could not expand; the power of expansion rested in the Alabama Legislature.⁶⁵⁴

The people of Enterprise chose not to pursue merging with Troy State University. Although the idea to offer four-year level coursework was exciting, a merger would have created unnecessary duplication. The idea to offer junior and senior level coursework in Enterprise was considered, but in reality Enterprise could not financially support two years of upper level coursework.⁶⁵⁵ The City never approved it. The state never approved it. Troy State University-Enterprise Campus never materialized and Enterprise never offered upper level coursework.

Increased Enrollments Due to the Higher Education Act of 1972

On June 23, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed into law the Higher Education Act Amendments of 1972.⁶⁵⁶ The amendments allowed more sources of funding for two-year institutions. Nixon, upon signing the law stated,

In March of 1970, I asked that aid to students enrolled in postsecondary institutions be expanded and redirected to assure every qualified student that he would be eligible for a combination of federal grants and subsidized loans sufficient to make up the difference between his college costs and what his family is able to contribute. Congress has provided that opportunity, to an extent, through a program of grants for eligible students

⁶⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵⁵ Roy Shoffner, "Progress Made," *The Daily Ledger*, December 15, 1971.

⁶⁵⁶ "The United State Department of Justice, Overview of Title IX Of The Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. A§ 1681 Et. Seq. Internet, accessed July 27, 2015, <http://www.justice.gov/crt/overview-title-ix-education-amendments-1972-20-usc-1681-et-seq>. According to the Department of Justice, The Higher Education Act of 1972 outlawed discrimination on the bases of sex to any educational institution or training center receiving federal dollars. For the purpose of this study, the author focused on the increased financial aid programs created by the Higher Education Act of 1972.

and aid from the existing Educational Opportunity Grant, College Work-Study, and National Defense and Guaranteed Student Loan programs.⁶⁵⁷

Nixon supported the Higher Education Act of 1972 because it provided additional financial assistance to middle class Americans. According to one analysis of federal aid and policy,

Congress made a further point in the 1972 legislation by substituting the term "postsecondary education" for "higher education" and broadening the range of options available to students. The intent was to break the stereotype that education beyond high school meant full-time attendance in a four-year academic program leading to a baccalaureate degree. The 1972 HEA amendments extended greater federal recognition and support to career and vocational education, community colleges, and trade schools as well as to students in part-time programs.⁶⁵⁸

Until 1972, the federal government provided financial assistance directly to the institutions of higher learning in three forms: the Educational Opportunity Grant, National Defense Student Loans, and Work-Study.⁶⁵⁹ The institutions were encouraged to recruit, identify, and award financial assistance to the poorest students.⁶⁶⁰ Enterprise State had received work-study assistance through the Educational Opportunity Act of 1964, the Federal Work Study Program under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and the Supplemental Educational

⁶⁵⁷ Public Paper of the Presidents of the United States, Richard Nixon, "Statement on Signing the Education Amendments of 1972." June 23, 1972, accessed on July 29, 2015, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=3473&st=&st1=>.

⁶⁵⁸ Lawrence E. Gladieux, "Federal Student Aid Policy: A History and an Assessment," accessed July 13, 2015, <http://www2.ed.gov/offices/OPE/PPI/FinPostSecEd/gladieux.html>.

⁶⁵⁹ Ibid. Until the Higher Education Act of 1972, Federal Financial Aid, which included federal work study, grants, and loans, fell under the following programs: the Educational Opportunity Grant; the National Defense Student Loans; the Federal Work-Study Program; and the TRIO Programs.

⁶⁶⁰ Gladieux, "Federal Student Aid Policy."

Opportunity Grant. By 1972, ESJC provided \$7,015 in Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG) and \$91,719 from the Federal Work Study Program; totaling \$98,734.⁶⁶¹

The Higher Education Amendments of 1972 provided additional financial assistance for eligible students enrolled in higher institutions of education.⁶⁶² The HEA of 1972 provided the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant (BEOG) directly to the individual applying for financial aid. Institutions no longer received a lump sum of funds to identify students and make financial aid awards. By allowing students to apply directly for federal funds, students had more choices in where they attended college. According to *The Enterprise Ledger*, during 1965-1967, The Federal Work Study Program was administered out of Forrester's Office.⁶⁶³ The only financial aid awards given were for students who applied for financial aid at Enterprise State Junior College. Until 1972, federal financial aid was determined by the institution of higher learning, not the Office of Education within the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (US Department of Education was not created until 1979). Institutions had to identify and recruit needy students in order to make financial aid awards. It would take the HEA of 1972 and the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant to allow students to use financial aid at the institution of their choice.

⁶⁶¹ *ESJC Fact Book*, 138.

⁶⁶² "U.S. Department of Education, Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program Data Books, 1973-74 - 1979-80," accessed August 4, 2015, <http://www2.ed.gov/finaid/prof/resources/data/pell-historical/hist-1.html>. The Basic Educational Opportunity Grant provided financial assistance for students who demonstrated financial need. In 1980, the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant was renamed the Pell Grant in honor of United States Senator Claiborne Pell, 1961-1997, representing Rhode Island. Senator Pell sponsored the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant in 1972.

⁶⁶³ "ESJC Offers All Forms of Financing," *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 29, 1975.

In 1967, Mr. Ewell Griswold, Financial Aid Officer/Bookstore Manager, assisted students with financing higher education.⁶⁶⁴ During Griswold's tenure, 1967-1973, the College participated in the Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant and the Federal Work Study Program. These two programs assisted the poor, but failed to provide any assistance to the middle class. Griswold, upon returning from a two-week extensive financial aid training session in Kentucky, announced,

Most of the directors (in financial aid) realize the 'forgotten man' from the middle class of our society is the one who bears the heavy tax burden and faced the problem of paying taxes to provide for the lower income group and having to scrape the bottom of the barrel to get funds to send his children to college. These people need and deserve some type of financial assistance and the majority of those present favored legislation to up the family income limits, allow deductions from income tax for money spent for college education, and more participation in guaranteed loan program by local banks and other financial institutions.⁶⁶⁵

In 1972, the HEA established the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant (BEOG) allowing students to apply directly to the federal government for financial assistance.⁶⁶⁶ If financial aid assistance was awarded, students could use the financial assistance to meet their needs, instead of applying for limited funds awarded by institutions of higher learning. Students wishing to apply for financial aid completed the American College Testing Program's Family Financial Statement (FSS) to determine financial need.⁶⁶⁷ The FSS determined the amount of funds students received

⁶⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁶⁵ "Funds for College Middle-Class Needed," *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 12, 1971.

⁶⁶⁶ Gladieux, "Federal Student Aid Policy."

⁶⁶⁷ "ESJC Offers All Forms of Financing," *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 29, 1975. Today, students wishing to apply for financial aid complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

while attending college. In 1972, the maximum BEOG funding was \$452 for students who demonstrated the most financial need.⁶⁶⁸

The additional financial aid resources provided by the HEA of 1972 increased financial aid awards and enrollment at the College. By 1975, the College awarded 244 Basic Educational Opportunity Grants, totaling \$148,591; 3 Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, totaling \$1200; 5 Guaranteed Stafford Loans, totaling \$5,900; 139 Federal Work-Study Students, totaling \$77,701; 27 state assistance awards through the Alabama Student Assistance Program, totaling \$4,050. The total aid awarded was \$237,442.⁶⁶⁹ Enrollments benefited from the increased federal financial aid programs. In 1970, College enrollment was 1,376 students.⁶⁷⁰ Five years later, in 1975, the College enrollment had increased to 1,823 students.⁶⁷¹ The HEA of 1972 increased enrollments. If Congress had not passed the HEA of 1972, students would not have received additional financial assistance. Enterprise State added two additional forms of financial assistance: Basic Educational Opportunity Grants and Guaranteed Stafford Loans. Both programs increased enrollments for Enterprise State. As Forrester noted, The College obtained students “who without such aid [financial aid] would be unable to attend this institution.”⁶⁷²

⁶⁶⁸ “FinAid The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid,” accessed July 31, 2015, <http://www.finaid.org/educators/history.phtml>.

⁶⁶⁹ *ESJC Fact Book*, 138. From 1965 through 1990, ESJC has had three Financial Aid Directors. Mr. Forrester handled the financial assistance programs 1965-1967. Mr. Ewell Griswold, 1967-1973; Mr. Thomas Harvey Watt, 1973-1983; Dr. Henry L. “Chip” Quisenberry, Jr., 1984-Present.

⁶⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶⁷¹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁷² “ESJC Offers All Forms of Financing,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 29, 1975.

Student Success

Forrester was encouraged by the success of the College's students. Throughout the history of Enterprise State Junior College, students received recognition for their educational accomplishments. Whether a student was recognized for an academic award, an athletic achievement, making the dean's or president's list, or receiving a scholarship to attend a four-year institution, the College celebrated their achievements. The highest award the College offers is the James B. Allen Presidential Award, known as the President's Cup. It is presented to the top student attending Enterprise State Community College.⁶⁷³ The criteria for nomination includes academic achievement, participation in college activities, and citizenship. On June 4, 1968, Joseph Talmadge, Dean of Instruction, presented the first President's Cup to three individuals. He noted, "The administration and faculty of Enterprise State Junior College are proud of the fact that during the past three years our students have been more than just students, they have been real partners in establishing the College."⁶⁷⁴ The first three recipients were Mary Rebecca Croskey, Rebecca Johnson, and JoAnn Metcalf.⁶⁷⁵ While Forrester was proud of the academic achievements of students at Enterprise State Junior College, he was also proud of the success in athletics and extra-curricular activities.

⁶⁷³ James B. Allen was a lawyer, navy veteran, and politician. During his political career he served two terms in the Alabama House of Representatives, Etowah County, from 1939 through 1943, one term in the Alabama Senate from 1947 through 1951, before serving as Lt. Governor for the first time under Governor Gordon Persons. He ran successfully as Lt. Governor in 1962 and served from 1963 through 1967 with Governor George C. Wallace. Allen also served in the United States Senate, replacing Lister Hill, from 1969 until his death on June 1, 1978. In 1968, he provided funds to Enterprise State Junior College to name an award in his honor.

⁶⁷⁴ "ESJC Awards Associate Degrees to 69 Students; Certificates to 8," *The Enterprise Ledger*, June 4, 1968.

⁶⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

Table 5.7. James B. Allen / President's Cup winners, 1968-1990.⁶⁷⁶

1968	Becky Johnson
1969	Martha White
1970	Deborah Morgan
1971	Jim Thomason
1972	Ann Johnson
1973	Regina Windham
1974	David Lapointe
1975	John Diggs
1976	Clara Ellenburg
1977	Mike Timmermeyer
1978	Terry Landingham
1979	Betty Commander
1980	Deborah Garner
1981	Jennifer DeVaughan
1982	Karla Crumpler
1983	Danny Locklear
1984	Melissa Adams
1985	Carol Griffin
1986	Jeffery Carr Walding
1987	Jeffrey S. Moon
1988	Kayed D. Jwainat
1989	Charlotte Nichols
1990	Teresa Sirois

⁶⁷⁶ *ESJC Fact Book*, 77.

Forrester believed in the advice of Albert T. Skinner, President of Auburn Community College, in Auburn, New York: “Every good educational program needs both academic and extracurricular offerings in order to be fully effective.”⁶⁷⁷ By the end of the 1970s, Forrester had seen clubs and individual students receive statewide and national recognition. Forrester witnessed an athletic program established and a national junior college championship for the Debate Team. While many students participated in clubs and other extra-curricular activities, Athletics and the Debate Team brought statewide and national recognition to the College.

Athletics began at Enterprise State in 1966. Establishing an athletic department was considered for 1965, but Forrester decided to begin an athletic program in the second year of operation. According to Gene Daniels, pioneer physical education instructor and first Athletic Director,

Forrester wanted to wait a year until a gymnasium was built. Some schools started an athletic program the first year, the year they were opened. President Forrester and I had a lot of conversations about starting it [an athletic program], and I told him I truly felt that it was better to give us a year to recruit, to get the people we wanted in the program and hire a basketball coach.⁶⁷⁸

As the Ray Lolley Health Building and Gymnasium was constructed (October 1965 - April 1967), Forrester moved forward with establishing an athletic department. The first sport offered at ESJC was basketball. Gene Daniels, the first Athletic Director, hired Jerald Ellington as the first basketball coach. During Ellington’s first year of basketball, the Boll Weevils competed against other two-year colleges throughout Alabama and Florida. The Men’s Boll Weevils did not play many home games their first year. During the fall of 1966, the Ray Lolley

⁶⁷⁷ Albert T. Skinner, “A History of Auburn Community College during Its Founding Period, 1953-1959” (Ph. D. Diss., Syracuse University, 1961), 151.

⁶⁷⁸ Mr. Gene Daniels, Athletic Director 1966, personal Interview with author, September 5, 2015.

Health Building and Gymnasium was being built, which led to home games being played at Ft. Rucker or local high schools.⁶⁷⁹ The season started off with a 0-11 record, but the team turned the season around winning 11 straight games. The team finished the season 11-11. Coach Larry Nave guided the Boll Weevils from 1967-1969. Dean Craig served as Head Basketball Coach from 1970 -1974⁶⁸⁰ Coach Sid Elliott, 1975-1996, guided the men's basketball program for the next 21 years winning four conference championships.⁶⁸¹ As the College's enrollment grew, so did the Athletic programs. By 1969, ESJC offered baseball, track, golf, tennis, and cheerleading.⁶⁸² Baseball began in 1969 under the guidance of Coach Joe Hall. The baseball team did not continue in 1970, but started again in 1971 under the leadership of Bob Smithson. The highlight of Enterprise's baseball program began in 1982 when Coach Ronnie Powell led the baseball team to the Alabama State Junior College Championship.⁶⁸³ In 1986, current head baseball Coach Tim Hulsey arrived and guided the Weevils Baseball Team to two division titles in 1986 and 1989.⁶⁸⁴ Track was offered only for one season before it became an intramural sport. The ESCC Golf Team began in 1972-1974. The golf program lasted for two years; the golf team finished third in the state tournament in 1973. Golf and Track were cut from the athletic

⁶⁷⁹ "College Basketball to Be Played in New Brockton," *The Elba Clipper*, February 9, 1967.

⁶⁸⁰ "Craig Named Cage Coach," *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 19, 1970.

⁶⁸¹ Casey Strickland, "ESCC Athletics Has Long, Storied History in Wiregrass," *The Southeast Sun*, October 21, 2015, 7C.

⁶⁸² *Anthonomous* (Enterprise, 1969), 74-84.

⁶⁸³ Casey Strickland, "ESCC Athletics Has Long, Storied History in Wiregrass," *The Southeast Sun*, October 21, 2015.

⁶⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

department due to lack of funds. Men's basketball, baseball, and tennis were the only male sports offered at ESCC after 1974.

In 1966, Cheerleading became the first women's sport offered at the College. The first Cheerleading Sponsor was Mrs. Ann Daniels.⁶⁸⁵ Women's basketball, led by Coach Pansy Bryan-Elliott, began in 1978.⁶⁸⁶ In 1985, Bryan-Elliott led the Weevil Women to a runner up finish in state competition.⁶⁸⁷ Bryan-Elliott also served as the Men and Women's Tennis Coach. Tennis proved to be a successful program at the College. In 1981, the women tennis team won the state junior college championship.⁶⁸⁸ Enterprise State added softball in 1988, under the leadership of Coach Joan Newman.

⁶⁸⁵ *Anthonomus* (1967), 118.

⁶⁸⁶ Casey Strickland, "ESCC Athletics Has Long, Storied History in Wiregrass," *The Southeast Sun*, October 21, 2015.

⁶⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

⁶⁸⁸ *Ibid.*



Figure 5.3. First ESCC basketball team: The Boll Weevils, 1966-1967. Front Row, left to right: Terry Smith, Rodney Brown, Roger Bowden, Bobby Cordle, Larry Lewis. Second Row: Jerry Brown, Pete Kelley, Jimmy Hall, Dan Carnley, Eddie Kelley. Back Row: J. C. Gillis, Manager, Coach Jared Ellington, Gary North, Trainer.⁶⁸⁹



Figure 5.4. First ESJC cheerleaders.⁶⁹⁰ From left to right, Janet Wright, Evelyn Sawyer, Mack Money, Sponsor Mrs. Daniels, Tommy Newsome, Janet Brown, Lonnie Lipscombe, Anna Kidd.

⁶⁸⁹ *Anthonomus* (1967),110.

⁶⁹⁰ *Ibid*

For over 25 years, athletics has become a proud tradition at Enterprise State. Sports offered students the opportunity to attend college based on their athletic ability. During the first twenty-five years, only two players made it into professional sports: Jerome Walton, 1989 National League Rookie of the Year, and Ricky Beck, professional golfer who won the Alabama Open in 1982. Athletics was more than a sport. The coaches used athletics to teach young men and women to work hard and be good citizens. As Head Baseball Coach Tim Hulse stated, “The overall, goal though, is the contribution to our community. It’s not about records or numbers.”⁶⁹¹

While athletics provided a winning tradition at ESJC, other student clubs received state and national recognition. The most successful club was the Debate Team. The Enterprise State Junior College Debate Team, sponsored by Howard Pelham, was formed in 1966. On October 20, 1966 Enterprise State Junior College (ESJC) hosted its very first debate against Chipola Junior College (CJC) from Marianna, FL.⁶⁹² The first debate topic was “Resolved: That the United States Substantially Reduce its Foreign Commitment.”⁶⁹³ ESJC was led by team members Joanne Metcalf, Robert Morgan, Rebecca Johnson, David Gable, Larry Land, Rebecca Coskrey, Dale Marsh, and Diane Manwaring.⁶⁹⁴ One month later on November 20, 1966, ESJC’s debate team won third place in Alabama’s Debate Tournament. The Alabama Debate Tournament

⁶⁹¹ Andy Simmons, “Community College Athletics Molds Students Both on and off the Field,” *The Southeast Sun*. October 21, 2015.

⁶⁹² “ESJC Debaters Win over Chipola in First Competition of the Year,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, October 20, 1966.

⁶⁹³ Ibid.

⁶⁹⁴ Ibid.

consisted of all higher education institutions from the state.⁶⁹⁵ The young debate team watched The University of Alabama win first place, while Samford University placed second. Forrester was extremely proud of his young debate team: “This is our first tournament. What impresses me is that we competed successfully with colleges which have long established debate teams.”⁶⁹⁶ The Alabama Debate Tournament provided the College with its first intercollegiate trophy.⁶⁹⁷ Debate Team Member, Becky Johnson received the “Best Debator” award. The Debate Team continued to place in tournaments throughout 1966 and 1967. On January 22, 1967, The Debate Team won the Gulf Coast Junior College Debate Tournament.⁶⁹⁸ The Tournament pitted ESJC against sixteen other schools from across four states. The Debate Team provided Enterprise State Junior College with interstate exposure.

The Debate Team also invited other institutions to Enterprise, Alabama. On April 16, 1967, Enterprise State Junior College hosted and won first place in Alabama’s first Junior College Speech Tournament.⁶⁹⁹ In the summer of 1967, the Debate Team received notification of acceptance as the first Alabama junior college inducted into Phi Rho Pi, the national junior college speech fraternity.⁷⁰⁰ During 1967-1968, Enterprise State’s Debate Team impressed the

⁶⁹⁵ “Enterprise College Wins Big In Debate Tournament,” *The Dothan Eagle*, November 20, 1966.

⁶⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁹⁸ “Enterprise Debaters Take Top Trophies,” *The Panama City News Herald*, January 22, 1967.

⁶⁹⁹ Anthonomus (Enterprise, 1967), 86-88; “Junior College Contest Swept By Enterprise,” *The Dothan Eagle*, April 17, 1967.

⁷⁰⁰ “Enterprise Speech Club to Compete Nationally,” *The Elba Clipper*, September 28, 1967.

state and regional judges throughout competitive tournaments. The Debate Team received “Superior” remarks and a third-place finish during the Regional Gulf Coast Invitational Speech Tournament.⁷⁰¹ ESJC debaters won first place in the Alabama State Junior College Tournament.⁷⁰² In two years of competition, the Debate Team won back-to-back state championships. Enterprise’s debate team continued winning at regional tournaments. Team leader Rebecca Johnson received the “Best Debater” award, out of over one hundred participants, from the Florida State University Invitational.⁷⁰³ As a result of the team’s hard work, members were invited to the Phi Rho Pi national debate tournament in May, 1968.⁷⁰⁴ During the national tournament, ESJC’s Debate Team won ten awards, including member Becky Johnson as the National Champion Impromptu Speaker.⁷⁰⁵

The Debate Team continued winning. In 1969, the Debate Team was state champions of the Alabama Junior College Debate Tournament.⁷⁰⁶ By 1971, Mr. Howard Pelham resigned and was succeeded by Ms. Mary Bauer. Bauer kept the Debate Team involved in state, regional, and national tournaments. The Debate Team reached its pinnacle of success in 1971 by winning the National Junior College Women’s Debate Championship at Florissant Valley Community College

⁷⁰¹ Ibid.

⁷⁰² “Enterprise Wins Top Speech Contest Honors,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, March 21, 1968.

⁷⁰³ “ESJC Student, Rebecca Johnson, Is Best Debater,” *The Dothan Eagle*, February, 21, 1968.

⁷⁰⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁰⁵ *Anthonomus* (Enterprise, 1968), 72-73.; “Becky Johnson Wins National Title for Impromptu Speech at Miami,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, May 7, 1968.

⁷⁰⁶ “College Debators Sweep State Event,” *The Dothan Eagle*, March 13, 1969.

in St. Louis, Missouri.⁷⁰⁷ Led by freshman Ann Johnson and Debbie Crumpler, the Debate Team won the first-ever national championship by a junior college in Alabama.⁷⁰⁸ During the tournament Enterprise State defeated Orange Coast Junior College to win the national championship. Ms. Mary Bauer stated, “This is the highest achievement any junior college debaters can win.”⁷⁰⁹

The Debate Team represented the most successful extra-curricular club Enterprise State Junior College offered during Forrester’s presidency (1965-1981). No club has achieved a national championship since 1971. If ESJC had failed to provide extra-curricular activities, students would not have experienced competing on a local, state, or national level. Through successful student clubs and organizations, such as Athletics and The Debate Team, ESJC received state and national awards. The students’ hard work brought recognition to themselves, their families, and ESJC. Throughout his presidency, he reminded the public of the accomplishments of Enterprise State Junior College (ESJC). The need for ESJC had to be defended as the 1970’s ended. New politicians emerged bringing different ideas concerning two-year institutions to the political arena. One new politician who emerged was Governor Forrest “Fob” James, who believed Alabama had too many two-year schools.

⁷⁰⁷ “ESJC Debate Team Captures National JC Debate Championship,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, April 21, 1971.

⁷⁰⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁰⁹ Ibid.



Figure 5.5. ESJC Debate Team.
Enterprise State Junior College Debate Team wins first place in the Alabama Junior College Debate Tournament (1967). From left to right: David Gable, Robert Morgan, Larry Land, Joanne Metcalf, Dale Marsh, Rebecca Johnson, Larry Weeks, and Larry Akridge.⁷¹⁰



Figure 5.6. ESJC National Champion Impromptu Speaker Becky Johnson, 1968.⁷¹¹

⁷¹⁰ "State Winners," *The Dothan Eagle*, 16 April 1967.

⁷¹¹ "Winners and Awards," *The Enterprise Ledger*, 14 May 1968.



Figure 5.7. ESJC National Champion Debate winners.
Enterprise State Junior College National Champion Debate Winners (1971): Debbie Johnson and Ann Johnson with Mr. Forrester.⁷¹²

⁷¹² “ESJC Debate Team Captures National JC Debate Championship,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, April 21, 1971.

ESJC under the Alabama Commission on Higher Education

James, a successful businessman turned politician, entered the governor's office with one main goal: to improve education.⁷¹³ In order to improve education, Governor James called for educational reform. James was the first governor since Albert P. Brewer (1968-1971) to propose educational reform. Governors James and Brewer shared a common trait. Both men succeeded or preceded George C. Wallace. In their limited time, Brewer's thirty-two months, May 1968-January 1971, and James's first term as governor 1979-1983, both governors moved towards educational reform while in office.⁷¹⁴

The last battle Forrester fought as president involved the two-year public junior colleges reporting to the Alabama Post-Secondary Commission on Education (APSCE). During Forrester's presidency (1965-1981), he resisted merging with Troy State University (1971), fought to maintain Enterprise State as a junior college when legislation proposed all two-year schools should be downgraded to technical colleges (1975), and now rallied to keep Enterprise State reporting to the Alabama State Board of Education (1981).

⁷¹³ Sandra Baxley Taylor, *Governor Fob James, His 1994 Victory, His Incredible Story*. (Mobile: Greenberry Publishing Company, 1995), 63.

⁷¹⁴ In the twenty-five year span of 1963-1987, George Wallace served seventeen years as governor. He served his first term from 1963 to 1967. Due to the Alabama Constitution, Wallace could not succeed himself and chose his wife, Lurleen, to run in his place in 1966. Governor Lurleen easily won and stayed in office for sixteen months until she passed away from cancer in 1967. Lt. Governor Albert Brewer finished her term by serving as governor for 32 months, May 1968 - January 1971. Brewer lost the 1970 election to George C. Wallace who was easily re-elected in 1974. In 1978, Governor Wallace could not run for office for a third consecutive term. In 1978, Fob James was elected governor. Governor James served from 1979 to 1983.

Governor James pushed for two major changes in post-secondary education; a new governing board and a chancellor to oversee the two-year colleges in Alabama. James tried unsuccessfully to change the governing board for the two-year college system.⁷¹⁵ The stated object of Governor James' was to "strengthen the Alabama Commission on Higher Education."⁷¹⁶ The Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) was established under Governor Albert P. Brewer's educational reform package in 1969. ACHE was established to reduce excessive spending, over duplication, and discourage individual four-year institutions from lobbying for higher education. Until 1981, ACHE "in its original form was an advisory agency lacking any regulatory authority over any board or institution."⁷¹⁷ ACHE was not effective in monitoring institutions of higher learning in Alabama. As Wayne Flynt stated, "Unfortunately the legislature, nervous about surrendering its authority over pork, vested little enforcement power in ACHE. Legislators reviewed the performance of the agency's director every four years, and well-connected college presidents simply ignored him."⁷¹⁸ ACHE gained some authority during Governor James administration (1979-1983).

⁷¹⁵ Forrest "Fob" James is the only governor elected twice by running under two political parties. He was elected governor in 1978 and served as governor from 1979 to 1983 as a democrat. He was re-elected in 1994 and served his second term from 1995 to 1999 as a Republican.

⁷¹⁶ "ACHE bill passes," *The Gadsden Times*, May 1, 1981.

⁷¹⁷ "The Alabama Commission on Higher Education," accessed July 28, 2015, <http://www.ache.state.al.us/Content/About%20Us/Other.aspx>.

⁷¹⁸ Flynt, *Alabama in the Twentieth Century*, 242.

The idea of a different governing board was not new. In 1968, the state junior college presidents in Alabama responded to the idea of a different governing board. As noted in “One Coordinating Board Is Recommended for All Higher Education”

Separate boards of control for 8 state universities, 2 state colleges, 17 junior colleges, 29 state vocational technical schools create serious problems in effective and efficient administration of these institutions. The proliferation of separate boards of control in higher education in Alabama during the past three or four years has shown that steps to give coordination and guidance in the field of higher education is not only desirable but an absolute necessity, if the taxpayers are to get maximum benefits from tax dollars. Elimination of unnecessary duplication and gaps in the educational offerings should be one of the results of the creation of a coordinating board for higher education (Alabama Commission on Higher Education).⁷¹⁹

The state junior college presidents recommended a coordinating board to eliminate duplication and provide educational opportunities for all Alabamians. A coordinating board was established as the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, but lacked any authority other than serving as an advising agency. The real power still rested in the Alabama Legislature and the Alabama State Board of Education. The idea of the two-year system reporting to another board, other than the Alabama State Board of Education never gained momentum during Governor Wallace’s second (1971-1975) and third terms (1975-1979).

In April 1971, Senator L. D. “Dick” Owen introduced a bill for all junior colleges to be removed from the Alabama State Board of Education and for each to be placed under a local board.⁷²⁰ The proposed board would consist of eleven members including the Governor and the

⁷¹⁹ “One Coordinating Board is Recommended for All Higher Education” (1968), 1-5.

⁷²⁰ “Proposed Bill Would Give ESJC 11-Member Board of Trustees,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, April 28, 1971.

State Superintendent of Education along with three members appointed by the Governor, four members from the Congressional District, and two from within the state.⁷²¹ The reason Senator Owen proposed a new board was to give the local community a chance to decide how their two-year institution should be governed. As Senator Owen stated, “The thinking behind this bill is that we can relate the college more to the area in which it is located. It will provide a closer working relationship with the local people and the college administration.”⁷²²

During 1971, one issue facing two-year schools was becoming small four-year colleges. By July 1971, Gadsden State Junior College, Jefferson State Junior College, Snead State Junior College, and Northeast State Junior College had tried to become four-year colleges.⁷²³ These junior colleges failed to become four-year institutions because Attorney General Bill Baxley believed that the Alabama Legislature should determine whether a junior college should become a four-year college, not the local communities. Senator Owen wanted to remove the power of the Alabama Legislature and put the responsibility for the junior colleges in the local communities. As stated in *The Enterprise Ledger*, “the one clear cut objection we can see is that every local board could be expected to push for making its school a four-year college.”⁷²⁴ Senator Owens’s proposal for all junior colleges to report to a local governing board failed. The Chamber of Commerce in Enterprise was not in favor of a local board. According to Robert C. Conner, Chairman of the Junior College Committee of the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce,

⁷²¹ Ibid.

⁷²² Ibid.

⁷²³ “Other Junior Colleges Seeking 4-Year Status,” *The Gadsden Times*, July 28, 1971.

⁷²⁴ “Junior College Bill,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, May 12, 1971.

The Junior College Committee of the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce is very much concerned about the bill creating a Board of Trustees for the local college. We feel that the work done here is of excellent quality and we do not need any change in the way the college is operated. They are working under the State Department of Education which has done an excellent job in guidance and we feel that this is the only supervisory Board that is needed.⁷²⁵

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education gained some authority during Governor James's first two years as governor. During Governor James's first year of office, 1979, Rep. Leigh Pegues introduced Act 79-461.⁷²⁶ This bill authorized the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to approve all new programs in higher education.⁷²⁷ While ACHE gained some authority in 1979, it still lacked any ability to reduce unnecessary spending. Governor James's reform package was designed to reduce wasteful spending in higher education. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education provided Governor James with plenty of facts concerning the operation and expenses of two-year colleges by stating:

We now have two separate systems of two-year institutions in Alabama, junior colleges and technical colleges. In six locations the two are combined into community colleges. In all, there are 15 junior colleges, six community colleges, and 22 technical colleges. There are 43 separate presidents and administrative staffs for schools with headcount enrollments ranging from a low 251 to a high of 6,324. In Tuscaloosa there are two separate institutional administrations; in Birmingham there are three; in Gadsden, three; in Mobile, three. All of them and more represent wasteful administrative costs that can be eliminated and the savings used for teaching students.⁷²⁸

⁷²⁵ Robert C. Conner, Chairman of the Junior College Committee of the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, personal letter to Representative Douglas Easters, June 28, 1971.

⁷²⁶ "The Alabama Commission on Higher Education," accessed July 28, 2015, <http://www.ache.state.al.us/Content/About%20Us/Other.aspx>.

⁷²⁷ Ibid.

⁷²⁸ "ACHE Viewpoint Explained," *The Tuscaloosa News*, May 2, 1980.

ACHE outlined the excessive spending and Governor James listened. He stated, “We will come into the next session of the Legislature with some major reform proposals. We’ve got to say to higher education that what we need is to be more qualitative rather than quantitative.”⁷²⁹ He supported additional reform bills aimed at removing the two-year system from the oversight of the Alabama State Board of Education to placing it under a new board. If James could remove the two-year system from the control of the Alabama State Board of Education, then he could reduce the number of schools. In 1981, Governor James was asked, “What about the junior colleges and trade schools?”⁷³⁰ His answer was, “We plan to padlock some of those.”⁷³¹ He would reduce the number of two-year colleges, and use the tax dollars to improve the quality of the two-year schools left open. When the 1981 session opened, Governor James won support from the Alabama House of Representative to establish a new governing board for the two-year college system.

In March, 1981, Representative Leigh Pegues, from Marion, Alabama proposed the state supported technical colleges should report to the Alabama State Board of Education and the state junior colleges should report to the to be established Alabama Commission of Post-Secondary Education (ACPSE).⁷³² Rep. Pegues did not recommend a governance shift from the Alabama State Board of Education to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE). Instead he

⁷²⁹ “The Governor Grades Himself: Fob James Evaluates His Two Years as Alabama’s Chief Executive,” *Alabama News Magazine*, (January 1981),10-12.

⁷³⁰ Ibid.

⁷³¹ Ibid.

⁷³² Ben Stewart, “Holley Charges Bill ‘Confusing’,” *The Daily Ledger*, May 4, 1981.

recommended a newly created modified version of ACHE, the ACPSE.⁷³³ Representative Pegues's bill echoed Governor James's agenda to restructure ACHE. Governor James believed,

It is impossible for our great schools to pursue a mission of excellence, a mission of quality not quantity, unless they build on their strengths and eliminate their weaknesses. This has not been done. Therefore I recommend that the role of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education be changed from one of coordination to one of administration, and that the commission be restructured and given the authority to carry out that role.⁷³⁴

Two major concerns surfaced with the proposed new board. First, as Representative Jimmy Holley, Elba, AL, who did not support the newly proposed board stated, "The bill is confusing because junior colleges would be controlled in some extent by the state board of education and to some extent by the proposed Alabama Commission on Post-Secondary Education."⁷³⁵ The problem Representative Holley voiced was over who had control over the junior colleges. If the junior colleges were to report to the Alabama Commission on Post-Secondary Education, along with four-year institutions, then four-year institutions could influence the educational programs offered at junior colleges. Holley did not believe the junior colleges would receive equal consideration as long as four-year schools and two-year schools were governed by the same board. As noted in *The Gadsden Times*, if ACHE is restructured to the ACPSE, then the newly formed commission would have veto power over all educational programs, not just newly proposed programs.⁷³⁶ Representative Holley acknowledged the

⁷³³ Ibid.

⁷³⁴ Taylor, *Governor Fob James*, 242-243.

⁷³⁵ Ibid.

⁷³⁶ "ACHE Bill Passes," *The Gadsden Times*, May 1, 1981. In 1979, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education received authority to approve new educational programs under Act 79-461. See "The Alabama Commission on Higher Education" <http://www.ache.state.al.us/Content/About%20Us/Other.aspx>.

authority of the proposed board, by stating, “The proposed new body to control higher education would have authority to review, approve or disapprove new and existing instructional programs in the public post- secondary institutions.”⁷³⁷ Two-year institutions across the state faced losing programs they offered for several years with a new governing board.

The membership of the newly proposed board was the second concern. While the Alabama State Board of Education consisted of seven elected board members, ACPSE would consist of seven members appointed by the governor.⁷³⁸ The governor, State Finance Director Sid McDonald and State Superintendent of Education Wayne Teague would also serve on the ten member committee.⁷³⁹ If the bill passed, Governor James would receive the same authority as Governor George Wallace had held during his first term as governor (1963-1967). As fast as Governor Wallace appointed supporters to the Alabama State Board of Education to establish more two-year schools, Governor James could appoint supporters to the Alabama Post-Secondary Commission on Higher Education Board to close two-year schools in Alabama. Governor James tried to remove the Alabama Legislature’s authority over the two-year colleges by establishing a board appointed by him to reform higher education. Governor James’s reforms focused on reducing expenses by eliminating two-year schools.

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) received some momentum from Rep. Pegues’s sponsored bill, which strengthened the newly proposed and restructured Alabama Post-Secondary Commission on Higher Education (APSCHE). It aimed to end statewide

⁷³⁷ Ibid.

⁷³⁸ “James Explains ACHE Abolition,” *The Tuscaloosa News*, February 8, 1981.

⁷³⁹ Ibid.

duplication in college courses and save the state taxpayers money.⁷⁴⁰ Pegues received support from Governor James. Governor James insisted expenses could be reduced at the junior college level. He stated Alabama has “built more junior colleges than all but three states in the union. In the 1960s the idea was to have six or seven, but now there are 21.”⁷⁴¹ Representative Holley disagreed with Governor James and with Rep. Pegues, whose bill passed the Alabama House of Representatives by a vote of 56-44. Two days earlier, Rep. Pegues’s bill failed to reach a majority in the House, but Rep. Pegues altered the legislation, allowing the Alabama State Board of Education to maintain control over the state technical colleges while the junior colleges would be governed by the Alabama Post-Secondary Commission on Higher Education.⁷⁴² Holley defended the junior colleges by stating “the bill would destroy the junior college system in Alabama by giving the state’s four-year schools control of academic programs and denying quality education to the poor.”⁷⁴³ The Alabama House of Representatives sent the bill to the Alabama Senate for approval.

Forrester disagreed with Rep. Pegues, Governor James and State Finance Director, Sid McDonald. Forrester blamed the confusion on the State Finance Director. As Forrester informed the Enterprise Rotary Club on the proposed changes affecting junior colleges, “I believe the

⁷⁴⁰ Ibid. “ACHE Bill Passes,” *The Gadsden Times*, May 1, 1981. In 1979, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education received authority to approve new educational programs under Act 79-461.

⁷⁴¹ Kendal Weaver, “James’ Plan to Overhaul Colleges Certain to Bring Stormy Reaction,” *The Gadsden Times*, Jan 16, 1981.

⁷⁴² Ibid.

⁷⁴³ Ibid.

governor is being fed a lot of bad advice.”⁷⁴⁴ Forrester did not believe junior colleges should be closed. As a junior college president, and a leading pioneer in developing junior college education in Alabama, Forrester took the issue of realigning the junior colleges personally. He believed Governor James and State Finance Director Sid McDonald’s real agenda was to close all junior colleges.⁷⁴⁵ Forrester continued to disagree with McDonald concerning junior colleges by stating, “he [McDonald] and I don’t think alike about education. The main difference is, I am for it [a junior college system] and he is against it.”⁷⁴⁶ Forrester could not understand why the state would consider closing what the people of Alabama wanted, accessible and affordable higher education. If the state was not going to close the two-year schools, Forrester believed Governor James and State Finance Director McDonald would consolidate them. Forrester continued sharing his thoughts on consolidation by stating, “And now this ad hoc committee is coming up with plans to group us with other colleges in other cities and have one chancellor over three or four of them is about the silliest thing I have ever heard of.”⁷⁴⁷ Forrester was against merging or closing any two-year college in the state. He believed that was not what the people wanted. Forrester received support from *Enterprise Ledger* editor Roy Shoffner. Shoffner responded with editorials resisting educational reforms aimed to realign the governing structure of two-year education.

⁷⁴⁴ Forrester Critical of Recent Attempts to Change JC System,” *The Enterprise Ledger*. July 12, 1980.

⁷⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁴⁷ Ibid.

Shoffner disagreed with placing the junior colleges under authority of the Alabama Post-Secondary Commission on Higher Education (ACPSE). Shoffner stated, “I have seen so much infighting in the state over the presence of junior colleges since they were created that I am concerned over their being placed together with the four-year institutions under any committee designed to regulate them in any manner.”⁷⁴⁸ Shoffner remembered how the four-year institutions were opposed to the establishment of two-year institutions in 1963. He did not want the junior colleges to be governed by four-year institutions. Shoffner believed that educational reform should apply to all institutions of higher learning, not just junior colleges.⁷⁴⁹ Forrester and Shoffner opposed the 1981 Alabama Special Session push for a new governing board. The Alabama Senate would determine if the two-year institutions reported to the Alabama Post-Secondary Commission on Higher Education or the Alabama State Board of Education.

In Special Legislative Session of 1981, Governor James’s plan to remove Alabama’s state supported junior colleges from the control of the Alabama State Board of Education failed to pass the Senate. Governor James met his biggest resistance from higher education personnel.⁷⁵⁰ The Alabama House of Representatives approved Representative Leigh Peagues’s

⁷⁴⁸ Roy Shoffner, “James Can’t Win on Junior Colleges,” *The Daily Ledger*, May 6, 1981.

⁷⁴⁹ Roy Shoffner, “In Defense of Junior Colleges,” *The Daily Ledger*, June 3, 1981.

⁷⁵⁰ Taylor, *Governor Fob James*, 246-247. Educational Legislators refers to Alabama legislators who worked in higher education. Fob James dealt with educational legislatures while trying to pass his reforms package during his first term (1979-1983). While Governor James pushed for junior colleges to realign under his proposed Alabama Post-Secondary Commission on Higher Education, it was educational legislators who blocked his proposal. Two-year colleges employed educational legislators to secure more funding. Until 2008, after two major scandals involving former Chancellor Roy Johnson in 2008 and State Senator Roy Campbell in 1994, educational legislators could work at two-year colleges and serve in the legislature. To prevent what was commonly known as double dipping, being employed by two government agencies, legislators cannot be employed in Alabama’s Community College System.

bill, even with two, two-year college presidents serving in the House, in the spring of 1981.⁷⁵¹ The Senate, loaded with higher education employees, did not support Governor James's reform bill. The Senate Education Committee, Chaired by Senator G. J. "Dutch" Higginbotham, also the Director of Financial Aid at Chattahoochee Valley Community College, and Senator Charlie Britnell, President of Northwest Alabama State Junior College, voted against the bill.⁷⁵² Since two-year institutions relied heavily on state allocations from the legislature, it was not uncommon for two-year schools to employ legislators. As Executive Director of the State Ethics Commission Melvin Cooper stated, "It's a sorry school that doesn't have its own legislator. You're just not anybody until you got a legislator on the payroll."⁷⁵³ Enterprise State did not have an educator legislator in the Special Legislative Session of 1981. Two-year institutions represented by educational legislators opposed reforms aimed at reducing their powers of funding. James was not successful in moving two-year institutions under a new board. The two-year system remained under the authority of the Alabama State Board of Education.

⁷⁵¹ Ibid. Two college presidents served in the Alabama House of Representatives in 1981. Representative Wayne Cobb of Hamilton, Alabama and President of Northwest Technical College and Representative James Sasser of Ozark, Alabama and President of Alabama Aviation and Technical College.

⁷⁵² Ibid.

⁷⁵³ "Legislators Becoming Educators in Question," *The Florence Times*, February 12, 1989.

Table 5.8. Educational legislators, 1981.⁷⁵⁴

Name	City	Two-Year College
Senator Charles Britnell	Russellville	Northwest Alabama State Junior College
Senator Robert B. "Bob" Hall	Pinson	Jefferson State Junior College
Senator G.J. "Dutch" Higginbotham	Opelika	Chattahoochee Valley Community College
Representative Hugh Boles	Hueytown	Jefferson State Junior College
Representative W.C. "Bill" Bouling	Cullman County	Wallace State Community College
Representative Wayne Cobb	Hamilton	Northwest Alabama Technical College
Representative Joe M. Ford	Gadsden	Gadsden State Junior College
Representative George Harold Grimsley	Columbia	George C. Wallace State Community College
Representative Seth Hammett	Andalusia	Lurleen B. Wallace State Junior College
Representative Yvonne Kennedy	Mobile	Bishop State Junior College
Representative James Sasser	Ozark	Alabama Aviation and Technical College
Representative J. David Stout	Ft. Payne	Not Specified

While James was not successful at removing the two-year junior colleges from the Alabama State Board of Education, he was successful in removing the authority over junior colleges from the State Superintendent of Education. From 1963 until 1982, the two-year schools reported to the State Superintendent of Education. On May 4, 1982, the Alabama Legislature passed Act 82-486, which created the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education

⁷⁵⁴ "The Alabama Senate & House of Representatives," *Alabama News Magazine*, January 1981, p. 20-49.

(ADPS).⁷⁵⁵ The ADPS still reported to the Alabama State Board of Education. Act 82-486 also established the position of chancellor who served as the chief executive officer over the two-year colleges. Dr. Howard Gundy was the first Chancellor appointed by the Alabama State Board of Education.⁷⁵⁶ Forrester never worked with Dr. Gundy as Chancellor. By 1982, Forrester had retired. When Gundy was appointed, Forrester's successor, Dr. Joseph D. Talmadge, had been president for eight months.

Final Thoughts on Forrester

On September 30, 1981, Forrester announced his retirement after serving sixteen years as president of ESJC. During his presidency he had seen the College grow from a 100-acre peanut field to six modern buildings including Forrester Hall, erected in 1977 in his honor.⁷⁵⁷ Forrester began his presidency when tuition was \$44 per quarter and ended his presidency with tuition costing \$100 per quarter. He hired the original sixteen faculty members and saw the faculty ranks grow to forty-two by 1981.⁷⁵⁸

He witnessed an enrollment rise from 256 students in 1965 to 1,883 by 1981.⁷⁵⁹ Forrester was president during the expansion of federal aid to higher education. He received assistance

⁷⁵⁵ Heinrich, "Alabama," p. 1-2.

⁷⁵⁶ "Gundy Hired by State Education Board," *The Times Dailey*, July 3, 1982. Dr. Howard Gundy had served worked with Governor James as an educational advisor. He had no experience working in two-year colleges. He had previously served at the University of Alabama as interim president in 1980-1981.

⁷⁵⁷ *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog 1981-1982*. (Enterprise, 1981), 12-15.

⁷⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁵⁹ *Enterprise State Junior College Fact Book*, p. 27.

from federal programs such as the Higher Education Act of 1965 allowing students to receive educational funds from several federal programs and from the Higher Education Act of 1972, which established additional financial aid programs. Forrester served ESJC when federal, state, and local support increased access for more students to attend college. The College increased personnel and enrollments, offered additional academic and career programs, and built educational facilities with these federal programs.

Forrester also saw students achieve state and national recognition in extra-curricular activities. Whether it was on an athletic field or an academic competition, ESJC students competed against other institutions of higher learning. The competitive events promoted learning outside the traditional classroom. If Forrester had not supported the College's extra-curricular activities, students would have only received academic instruction. Extra-curricular activities provided students with a diverse education. Each time a student received recognition for an academic or athletic achievement, Forrester received assurance the College was meeting the students' needs.

Forrester appreciated each accolade the College received. As he led ESJC, he was challenged to protect the need for junior colleges. He faced political leaders who desired to consolidate or close two-year institutions. Forrester never understood why politicians wanted to close or consolidate what the people wanted; a local junior college meeting their local community needs. Forrester remembered when Alabama offered little access to higher education. In Forrester's last interview, he stated, " Unless the parents had a good deal of money, there wasn't much chance of going to college, and college was about the only way for person to escape their economic plight. It's hard for me to believe there can be too many educational institutions

that would help people learn instead of keeping them ignorant. We will never have too much quality education.”⁷⁶⁰

Forrester always remembered being one of the few advocates for two-year colleges in 1963. He remembered four-year universities resisting the legislation to establish the two-year system. He fought for sixteen years for the two-year system to be recognized and respected as institutions of higher learning. He never wanted Enterprise State Junior College, or any other two-year college, to be controlled by four-year institutions. In Forrester’s mind, four-year institutions wanted the two-year colleges removed from higher education in Alabama. Forrester resisted any state proposals to close or consolidate any two-year schools. In his “Statement on the 80’s” Forrester predicted the future of the two-year colleges:

Money for education is not going to be easy to come by in the 80’s and efforts to combine junior colleges and put all of them under one administration will be promoted as an economy measure. This is the worst thing that can happen and could hinder or eliminate the success record of these institutions. Now, if something is going on in these trade schools and junior colleges that the legislature doesn’t approve of, they created them and they can take necessary action to correct these individual problems and still maintain quality programs in these institutions. The legislature created trade schools and junior colleges and placed them under the supervision of the State Board. We have operated very well under the State Board for 15 years and made tremendous progress. I predict the State Board can and will provide the leadership required in the next 10 years as they have in the past. However, the legislature must make the decision if changes are to be made and will act in accordance with the citizen’s desires. I believe junior colleges and trade schools have proven their value to all and will therefore remain unchanged in the 80’s.⁷⁶¹

Forrester had been involved with two-year education since he was appointed Chairman of the Alabama State Board of Education Junior College Committee in 1963. He was the leader for the junior college system while Governor Wallace resisted federal integration and State

⁷⁶⁰ Gary Reese, “Farewell To An Old Friend,” *The Weevil Eye*, October 12, 1981.

⁷⁶¹ Benjamin Abb Forrester, “Statement on the 80’s” Personal Files of B.A Forrester.

Superintendent Austin Meadows did not support two-year colleges. Forrester served as a champion for two-year education to provide access to the masses of Alabama citizens. His efforts to see the two-year system succeed paid off. By the time he retired in 1981, the system included forty-one two-year colleges including Enterprise State Junior College. Forrester felt the best way individuals could better themselves was through education. He devoted sixteen years of his career to provide Wiregrass citizens the opportunity to earn higher education at Enterprise State Junior College.

CHAPTER 6

DR. JOSEPH D. TALMADGE: 1981-1994

On August 18, 1981, Dr. Joseph D. Talmadge was named the second President of Enterprise State Community College.⁷⁶² Talmadge had served as the Dean of Instruction for sixteen years as the “right hand man of Forrester.”⁷⁶³ It was Talmadge who had assisted Forrester with hiring the faculty, expanded academic and career programs, and watched the campus grow from a peanut field into six permanent buildings. He stated,

You cannot imagine what a feeling one can have for a building or a wall or a classroom unless you were there to see it take shape. Mr. Forrester and I used to come out here every day and see what progress was being made, and to just stand and watch it grow from day to day. It was a wonderful feeling.⁷⁶⁴

In 1976, Talmadge earned his doctorate in educational leadership from Auburn University.⁷⁶⁵ Talmadge’s professional career grew while serving the College. During his sixteen years as Dean of Instruction, Talmadge was involved in several professional associations, both state and national. He served as the Chairman of the Commission on Administration and Vice-Chair and

⁷⁶² “President Talmadge Outlines ESJC Plans,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, November 1, 1981.

⁷⁶³ Doug Paramore “Dr. Talmadge Has Solid Background for New Job as ESJC President,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, October 1, 1981.

⁷⁶⁴ Ben Stewart, “Talmadge Named New ESJC President,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 19, 1981.

⁷⁶⁵ Doug Paramore “Dr. Talmadge Has Solid Background for New Job as ESJC President,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, October 1, 1981.

Chair of the Fiscal Audit Team of the Alabama Junior and Community College Association.⁷⁶⁶ He was one of four members appointed to serve as a representative to serve on the Commission on Colleges and Schools of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1978. He was reappointed for another three years of service in 1979.⁷⁶⁷ He served as secretary of the Alabama Junior College Deans Association, and member of the Junior and Senior College Committee to eliminate transfer problems between junior college and senior colleges.⁷⁶⁸

On August 18, 1981, the day he was announced as president, Talmadge stated, "I am well pleased with the foundation that has been laid by Mr. Forrester and hope to continue to build on this."⁷⁶⁹ Talmadge wasted little time building on that foundation. During his thirteen years as president, Talmadge assisted with the establishment of The Enterprise State Junior College Foundation, expanded the College by opening a campus at Ft. Rucker, saw the women's program identified as a model training program for the state, and witnessed the addition of Talmadge Hall. His first official day as President began on October 1, 1981.

⁷⁶⁶ Ibid.

Today the Alabama Junior and Community College Association (AJCCA) is the Alabama Community College System (ACCA).

⁷⁶⁷ Roy Shoffner, "Dr. Talmadge Well Qualified for Post," *The Enterprise Ledger*, 22 August 1981, p. 4A.

⁷⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁶⁹ Ben Stewart, "Talmadge Named New ESJC President," *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 19, 1981.

The Establishment of the Enterprise State Junior College Foundation

Talmadge inherited a new set of challenges in the 1980s. Unlike Forrester who witnessed unprecedented federal support for higher education, Talmadge experienced a shift in government support during President Ronald Reagan's Administration (1981-1989). President Reagan wanted the federal government out of financing higher education.⁷⁷⁰ Reagan felt the states should be responsible for financing higher education.⁷⁷¹ As noted in the College newspaper, *The Weevil Eye*, "... the PELL/Basic Grant program which is 100 percent federally funded will experience an approximately 50 percent cut. The Alabama State Grant Program, which is funded partially by the state and partially by federal funds, has already been cut by approximately 50 percent."⁷⁷² While President Reagan pushed for decreased federal involvement in financing higher education, the Alabama State Board of Education (ASBE) raised tuition by \$25 per quarter; \$125 for a full time student.⁷⁷³ Reagan's view of limited federal financial assistance and the ASBE increasing tuition mandated opportunities for the College to seek private financial funds.

In 1982, Talmadge brought the idea to local community leaders to establish a foundation.⁷⁷⁴ He was successful in receiving their support to establish a foundation. On December 1, 1982, the Enterprise State Junior College Foundation was established to provide

⁷⁷⁰ William Zumeta, et al., *Financing American Higher Education in the Era of Globalization*. (Cambridge: Harvard Education Press, 2012), 72-73.

⁷⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷⁷² Jim Storm, "The Weevil Eye," February 25, 1982.

⁷⁷³ "President Talmadge Outlines ESJC Plans," *The Enterprise Ledger*, November 1, 1981.

⁷⁷⁴ Michelle Mann, "ESCC Foundation Has 32-Year History of Supporting College," *The Enterprise Ledger*, October 21, 2015.

external financial assistance to the College.⁷⁷⁵ According to *The 1991-1992 ESJC Catalog*, the Foundation was established “to enhance the College’s efforts to seek private funding.”⁷⁷⁶ The Foundation’s original members consisted of Talmadge and twenty-one others.⁷⁷⁷

On January 4, 1983, the Foundation held its first meeting. Talmadge discussed how the College received revenue from two main sources; state allocations and tuition dollars.⁷⁷⁸ Both provided funding challenges for the College because of inconsistencies. State allocations were inconsistent due to the state education budget changing annually. Tuition revenue depended on enrollments. Lack of funds kept the College from serving students, updating technology and equipment, providing professional development training for faculty, and offering institutional scholarships for students. In order to assist the College with funding, Talmadge needed assistance from the Foundation. He announced “funding of scholarships for worthy students should be the Foundation’s first priority.”⁷⁷⁹ The Foundation would serve, and still does today, as a consistent source for providing scholarships. Until the Foundation was established local

⁷⁷⁵ *Enterprise State Junior College Institutional Self Study for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 1984* (Enterprise, 1984), 63.

⁷⁷⁶ *Enterprise State Junior College 1991-1992 Catalog*. (Enterprise, 1991), 12-14.

⁷⁷⁷ Michelle Mann, “ESCC Foundation Has 32-Year History of Supporting College,” *The Southeast Sun*, October 21, 2015. The original members included: Dr. Joe Talmadge, Ted Averett, Herbert Barr, Jerry Brunson, Jim Ellis, Harry Gilder, Ben Henderson Jr., Peggy Lee, Dale Marsh, Albert R. McCreaney, Alan Nichols, Edna Paschal, Moultrie Sessions Jr., Walt Wilkerson, Jr., Whit Armstrong, Joe Ann Denman, Bruner Dicus, Dixie Dorsey, Dr. Joe Herod, Yancey Parker, and Joe Pittman.

⁷⁷⁸ “ESJC Foundation Holds First Meeting,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, January 4, 1983.

⁷⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

citizens and civic clubs made donations to the College, but nothing was permanently offered for scholarships. The Foundation offered stable scholarship funding for students annually.



Figure 6.1. ESJC Foundation first meeting, January 3, 1983. From left to right: Ted Avrett, Harry Gilder, Mo Sessions, Jerry Brunson, Peggy Lee, and Robert Conner.⁷⁸⁰

In 1983, many local civic clubs began donating to the Foundation. The Foundation focused on achieving two main goals. The first goal was to raise \$100,000. The second goal was to award scholarships to students. Once funds were collected, they would be invested in local banks. The interest generated would provide additional funds to award scholarships from the College. Foundation Board Chairman Walt Wilkerson, stated to the local Lions Club, “The

⁷⁸⁰ “ESJC Holds First Meet,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, January 4, 1983.

junior college serves twenty-five high schools in this part of the state and at the present time is able to offer only one scholarship to each high school senior class.”⁷⁸¹ Wilkerson, along with the Foundation, set a goal to award twenty additional scholarships by 1984.⁷⁸² Wilkerson continued to provide details on how the Foundation assisted the College by collecting monetary funds or through items donated privately. For example, Wilkerson noted an anonymous couple donated a painting valued at \$4,000 to the Foundation.⁷⁸³ As federal and state supported aid continued to decline and tuition rates increased, each item donated or funds collected increased the monies needed to raise \$100,000. The Foundation achieved both goals in one year.

On February 12, 1984, the College announced at the first Annual Awards Banquet, that the Foundation had reached the \$100,000.⁷⁸⁴ Wilkerson, noted: “The initial goal of \$100,000 was set so that interest earned can be used to grant much needed academic and leadership scholarships to deserving ESJC students.”⁷⁸⁵ Talmadge recognized Ms. Edna Paschal as the contributor to surpass the \$100,000 mark, along with eighty-four individuals or groups who contributed toward the Foundations goal.⁷⁸⁶ According to Talmadge, “Funds from private giving are needed to finance scholarships, the Lyceum Series, college publications and activities,

⁷⁸¹ Pattie Weiland, “ESJC Foundation Seeks Donors,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, June 30, 1983.

⁷⁸² Ibid.

⁷⁸³ Ibid.

⁷⁸⁴ “ESJC Scholarship Foundation Surpasses \$100,000 Mark,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, February 12, 1984.

⁷⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁸⁶ Ibid.

faculty development programs, and the purchase of modern equipment for instructional programs.”⁷⁸⁷

The second goal, to award scholarships to deserving students, was addressed throughout 1984 as local high school seniors received Foundation Scholarships to attend Enterprise State Junior College. Talmadge was pleased with the Foundation’s efforts to raise funds, and was very appreciative for the local donors who made the scholarships possible. He stated, “What has been accomplished thus far by the Foundation must be credited to the efforts of many who have made contributions, served on the Foundation Board and supported the Foundation because of their belief in ESJC, its programs and objectives.”⁷⁸⁸ The College awarded eleven additional scholarships due to the local funds raised by the Foundation. Wilkerson, announced,

This is the beginning we’ve planned for. Our first objective-obtaining \$100,000 in contributions- was reached in January 1984. This has been on deposit earning interest, and now we’ve used the interest to accomplish our second objective-providing needed scholarships for worthy students.⁷⁸⁹

The Foundation appreciated each donation from local citizens, but still requested more funds. One way the Foundation pushed for additional funds was by honoring individuals by establishing permanent memorial or honorary scholarships. A permanent or honorary scholarship covering full tuition could be established for an endowment of \$5,000.⁷⁹⁰ The first two endowed

⁷⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸⁸ “ESJC Foundation Awards Eleven Scholarships Locally,” *The Enterprise Ledger* June 8, 1984.

⁷⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁹⁰ Pattie Weiland, “ESJC Foundation Seeks Donors,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, June 30, 1983.

scholarships, the Enterprise Banking Company and the Fred and Nina Taylor Scholarship, were awarded in 1984.⁷⁹¹



Figure 6.2. ESJC Foundation raises first \$100,000, 1984.

On February 12, 1984, Enterprise State Junior College held its first awards banquet in celebration of reaching its first goal of raising \$100,000. From left to right are Mr. Walt Wilkerson, Jr., Chairman of the Enterprise State Junior College Foundation, Ms. Edna Paschal, who provided the donation to top the \$100,000 mark, and Dr. Joseph D. Talmadge.⁷⁹²

The College was able to gain two additional funding sources by establishing the Foundation. The first revenue source was received through private donations from citizens. The second revenue source the Foundation received was through the Higher Education Act of 1965

⁷⁹¹ “ESJC Foundation Awards Eleven Scholarships Locally,” *The Enterprise Ledger* June 8, 1984.

⁷⁹² “ESJC Scholarship Foundation Surpasses \$100,000 Mark,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, February 12, 1984.

Title III Endowment Challenge Grant (ECG).⁷⁹³ The ECG purpose was “To match endowments raised by eligible higher education institutions that have limited financial resources and serve significant percentages of low-income and minority students.”⁷⁹⁴ Dr. Shirley Woodie, Dean of Development, submitted a proposal for Enterprise State.⁷⁹⁵ In 1984, Congressman Bill Dickinson announced Enterprise State Junior College as a recipient to the Department of Education’s Endowment Challenge Grant Funds.⁷⁹⁶ The Endowment Challenge Grant Fund Program awarded the College \$100,000. In order for Enterprise State to receive the \$100,000 award, the Foundation needed to raise another \$100,000 between July 26, 1984 and July 15, 1985.⁷⁹⁷ Talmadge was excited to learn the College was awarded the grant by stating,

We are very pleased about our good fortune. The prospect of receiving a matching dollar for every dollar our Foundation raises is most exciting. Governmental guidelines for this grant specify that both government funds and the matching amount raised but our Foundation must be invested for a 20-year period. These monies will be placed in local institutions, and though we may spend interest earned from ESJC’s portion of the principal, none of the school principal nor the interest earned from the governmental grant itself may be used during the 20 years. This plan will give ESJC Foundation an opportunity to build a permanent endowment. We consider ourselves especially fortunate

⁷⁹³ The Endowment Challenge Grant was established under the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, Title III, Part C, P.L. 96-374.

⁷⁹⁴“Endowment Challenge Grants,” accessed November 9, 2015, <https://www2.ed.gov/pubs/Biennial/517.html>.

⁷⁹⁵ Dr. Shirley Woodie served ESCC as Dean of Development until 1988. In 1988, she was appointed President of the Alabama Aviation and Technical College (AATC). Dr. Tim Alford became Dean of Development upon Dr. Woodie’s appointment as President of the AATC.

⁷⁹⁶ “ESJC Recipient of \$100,000 Matching Government Grant,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, December 27, 1984. Bill Dickinson served twenty-eight years as a United States Congressman (1965-1993). Dickinson represented the Second District which included southeastern Alabama and Montgomery.

⁷⁹⁷ Ibid.

to be the first-and perhaps-the only public two-year non-minority college in the entire nation to be selected for this program.⁷⁹⁸

In December 1984, the College was notified that it had received the award, but no matching funds would be deposited until the Foundation raised another \$100,000. Foundation Chairman Wilkerson echoed Talmadge's concerns to raise the needed \$100,000 within one year by stressing, "The fact that the ESJC Foundation raised over \$100,000 within its first year of operations is certainly indicative of the great effort shown by our friends in ESJC's service area. Now we will need their help more than ever to achieve this once-in-a-lifetime milestone."⁷⁹⁹ The Foundation did not have to wait long to receive additional donations. Mr. Robert Conner, local real estate agent, started the drive to raise the required \$100,000 by donating the deed to his house to the Foundation.⁸⁰⁰ Conner stated on donating the house, "I've been interested in the College for a long time and I wanted to make this gift to kick-off the Foundations drive to raise its second \$100,000."⁸⁰¹ The Foundation raised the money. Within eight months of the College being notified (December 1984 - July 1985) they were awarded the \$100,000 Endowment Challenge Grant. On July 12, 1985, Talmadge announced the Foundation had raised the required \$100,000, and expressed his gratitude to the citizens of Enterprise, Ozark, Elba, New Brockton,

⁷⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰⁰ "House Donated to College," *The Enterprise Ledger*, December 19, 1984.

⁸⁰¹ Ibid.

Andalusia, Geneva, Daleville, Samson, Jack, and Ft. Rucker.⁸⁰² The College benefited from the Foundation's establishment.



Figure 6.3. Dr. Joseph D. Talmadge announces Endowment Challenge Grant, July 16, 1985. In 1985, ESJC was the only two-year college in the nation to earn an Endowment Challenge Grant.⁸⁰³

Over Enterprise State Community College's first twenty-five years, 1965-1990, the College received Matching Grant Awards in 1985 and 1986. In 1985, the College received a \$100,000 matching grant and an additional \$50,000 award in 1986. These two grants provided an

⁸⁰² Doug Paramore, "ESJC to Get \$100,000 Grant After Matching Funds Raised," *The Enterprise Ledger*, July 16, 1985.

⁸⁰³ Doug Paramore, "ESJC to Get \$100,000 Grant After Matching Funds Raised," *The Enterprise Ledger*, July 16, 1985.

additional \$300,000 for the College.⁸⁰⁴ By the time these grants matured in 2005 and 2006, the value of both grants equaled \$637,484.⁸⁰⁵

If the Foundation had not been established, the College would not have received support from local community leaders, nor the Department of Education's Matching Grant Funds Program. In 1989, Dr. Tim Alford, Dean of Development, noted:

Individuals- and businesses-have, to date fully endowed 39 scholarships and named them in honor or memory of a person or organization. These scholarships are awarded annually. There are now 141 corporate donors and 387 individual donors to the foundation...⁸⁰⁶

In eight years, 1982-1990, The Foundation provided 228 full tuition scholarships for ESJC students, assisted with building the Dean Craig Fitness Trail on campus, provided professional development for faculty, and updated computer technology to network with other libraries in the South.⁸⁰⁷

⁸⁰⁴ The local citizens raised \$100,000 in 1985 and \$50,000 in 1986 for the Foundation to meet the Endowment Challenge Grant. Since the community raised the required funds, the Foundation was awarded the additional monies of \$100,000 in 1985 and \$50,000 in 1986 totaling \$300,000.

⁸⁰⁵ James E. Laws., Jr., Director Institutional Development and Undergraduate Education Service, United States Department of Education, letters to Dr. Stafford L. Thompson, President Enterprise-Ozark Community College, March 10, 2007, and May 27, 2008.

⁸⁰⁶ Michelle Mann, "ESJC Foundation Helps Students Help Themselves," *The Enterprise Ledger*, November 8, 1989. Dr. Tim Alford served as the Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Economic Development for the Alabama Community College System from 2015-2016.

⁸⁰⁷ Kathy Newby, "What is ESJC Foundation," *The Weevil Eye*, December 18, 1990. On April 13, 1991, the Fitness Trail was named in honor of Dean Craig, former Coach and Head of the Physical Education and Recreation Division. See also, *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog, 1992-1993* (Enterprise, 1992), 6.

Ft. Rucker Campus Established for Military

Enterprise State Junior College had provided educational opportunities for service members since the College opened in 1965. During the Vietnam War Era, 1966-1973, Enterprise State participated in the “Transition Program” to assist service members preparing to discharge from the service. According to the *1973-1974 Enterprise State Junior College Catalog*, “for six years Enterprise State Junior College and the Army Education Center [located at Ft. Rucker] have cooperated in this program [Transition Program] designed to give four hours of instruction in twelve-week blocks to servicemen who are interested in obtaining specific job skills.”⁸⁰⁸ Since veterans were seeking employment that may provide additional job training, the College partnered with the United States Army to assist veterans with learning new training skills. In six years of providing the “Transition Program” the College offered courses in business management, drafting, law enforcement, and computers.⁸⁰⁹

In 1973, Enterprise State established a separate Veterans Affairs Office to meet the growing needs of veterans who served during the Vietnam War.⁸¹⁰ The College had seen increased enrollments from Vietnam veterans. In 1973, the year the Vietnam War ended, Enterprise State enrolled 185 veterans.⁸¹¹ By 1975, within three years of implementing the Veteran Affairs Office, enrollments included 525 veterans.⁸¹² One of the main attractions for

⁸⁰⁸ *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog 1973-1974*, (Enterprise, 1973), 59.

⁸⁰⁹ Ibid.

⁸¹⁰ “Veteran’s Services at ESJC,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 29, 1975.

⁸¹¹ Ibid.

⁸¹² Ibid.

Vietnam veterans to attend Enterprise State was the low cost in tuition. Unlike World War II and Korean veterans, Vietnam veterans experienced higher cost in tuition rates with reduced educational benefits.⁸¹³ While the national average for college tuition was \$1500 in 1972, Enterprise State's tuition was \$67.50 per quarter, or \$270 annually.⁸¹⁴ Vietnam veterans earned the average monthly stipend of \$220 for single veterans and \$261 for married veterans.⁸¹⁵ Attending Enterprise State allowed veterans to cover their tuition expenses while working towards a college degree.

Enterprise State offered service members assistance in earning their degree. In 1973, the College offered the "Enterprise Bootstrap Program."⁸¹⁶ The program offered "liberal provision for accepting credit applicable to a degree using college transfer credit, CLEP (College Level

⁸¹³ In 1966, Congress passed the Veterans Readjustment Benefit Act, known as the Vietnam G.I. Bill. Two main differences between the original G.I. Bill and the Vietnam G.I. Bill is veterans had to serve longer in order to receive educational benefits. Unlike WWII and Korean Veterans who received educational benefits for 90 days of full time active duty service, the Vietnam GI Bill called for 180 days of service for benefits. Also, instead of receiving four years of educational assistance like the WWII Veteran and three years of educational benefits like the Korean Veteran, the Vietnam Veteran's educational benefits was determined by a length in service; for every full month of active duty service the Vietnam Veteran was eligible for one month of educational benefits. For more information on Vietnam Veteran Benefits see Jay Treachman, "Military Service in the Vietnam Era and Educational Attainment," *Sociology of Education* 78, no. 1(2005): 50-68; Department of Veteran Affairs, "VA History in Brief. U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs," accessed December 23, 2015, http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/archives/docs/historyin_brief.pdf; J. Peter Mattila, "G.I. Bill Benefits and Enrollments: How did Vietnam Veterans Fare?" *Social Science Quarterly* 59, no.3 (1978):535-545.

⁸¹⁴ Treachman, "Military Service in the Vietnam Era," 50-68. At \$67.50 per quarter the annual charges, including fall, winter, spring, and summer quarter, were \$270.00.

⁸¹⁵ Ibid.

⁸¹⁶ *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog 1973-1974*, (Enterprise, 1973), 58.

Examination Program), Military Schools and Military Service Time.”⁸¹⁷ The Bootstrap Program offered veterans an opportunity to transfer 65 hours of coursework towards an associate’s degree. Since veterans faced the challenges of relocation along with their college credit not transferring to other institutions, they struggled to complete a college degree. Bootstrap helped many in this struggle.

In 1983, Enterprise opened a site offering classes in Ft. Rucker, Alabama.⁸¹⁸ The College had been involved in military training programs during the Forrester Administration, but Talmadge expanded course offerings and established a campus on the Ft. Rucker military base. The first quarter on base, the College provided fourteen courses for ninety students enrolled in an old WWII building.⁸¹⁹ It was a temporary facility used until the campus acquired Braman Hall.⁸²⁰ According to Harvey Watt, Associate Dean of the Ft. Rucker campus, “We (the College) felt a need to better serve our surrounding area, and Fort Rucker is a part of our community. From the beginning we have tried to tailor our programs to their [the military personnel’s] educational needs.”⁸²¹ One of the biggest challenges soldiers experienced is being stationed for short periods of time before they receive orders to relocate for another military assignment.

⁸¹⁷ *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog 1984-1985*, (Enterprise, 1984), 60.

⁸¹⁸ *Enterprise State Community College 2015-2016 Catalog and Student Handbook*. (Enterprise, 2015), 9. Ft. Rucker, Alabama is located nine miles east of Enterprise, Alabama, and is known as the “Home of Army Aviation.”

⁸¹⁹ Harvey Watt, “ESJC-Ft. Rucker Past and Present,” *The Weevil Eye*, December 18, 1990.

⁸²⁰ *Ibid.*

⁸²¹ “Fort Rucker Campus Enters 6th Year,” *The Southeast Sun*, May 2, 1990.

Because service members moved to different locations, many failed to meet a college's residency requirement to graduate.⁸²²

The second problem service members experienced was that of previous credits earned not transferring to other institutions of higher learning. During Talmadge's tenure (1981-1994), on-line learning was non-existent. Essentially, service members had two options to earn a college degree; to be stationed near an institution of higher learning or identify an institution participating in correspondence coursework. If the service member had attended previous colleges, he or she still faced the challenges of coursework not being accepted. The previous credits earned did not always transfer when the soldier was reassigned. As a result of being relocated, many veterans were attending college, but were not earning degrees. Being able to take classes with the assurance of their credits transferring and removing the residency requirement was a need for the military community.

In order to assist soldiers with meeting their higher education needs, the Department of Defense established the Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC). According to the Servicemembers Opportunity College's website, "Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) was created in 1972 to provide educational opportunities to service members experiencing trouble completing college degrees due to their frequent moves."⁸²³ Enterprise State had been

⁸²² Residency requirement refers to the number of hours an institution requires students to obtain in order to graduate. Enterprise State Community College requires all graduates to earn at least 25% of their coursework from the College. In 1983 students needed ninety-six hours to graduate with an associate's degree with at least twenty-four hours earned at ESJC. See *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog, 1983-1984*. (Enterprise, 1983), 65-66.

⁸²³ *Servicemembers Opportunities Network*, Internet, accessed December 30, 2015, <http://www.soc.aascu.org/>.

involved with SOC since 1975 as a junior college member. By 1985, SOC provided two networks of service; one designed for two-year institutions and one for four-year institutions.⁸²⁴

In January 1985, Enterprise State received notification it had received membership into the Servicemembers Opportunity Associate Degree Network (SOCAD).⁸²⁵ In order to be recognized as a SOCAD College, an institution must “meet the seven following criteria”:

1. A liberal entrance requirement
2. Maximum credit for educational experiences obtained in the armed services
3. Flexible residency requirements
4. A generous transfer policy
5. Courses offered in a non-traditional time-frame
6. Non-traditional modes of instruction
7. Special academic assistance⁸²⁶

By attending a member college within the SOCAD network, veterans can transfer credit to Enterprise State and “upon transfer from this area, the student is allowed to complete degree requirements at another college in the SOCAD network.”⁸²⁷ Servicemembers transferring to another SOCAD institution did not have to worry about their credits not transferring. Credits were guaranteed to transfer. Also, by joining SOCAD, Enterprise State counselors were allowed to remove the traditional residency requirement of earning 25%, or 24 hours, of the degree through coursework at the College, and the time frame requirement to either be enrolled the semester of graduation or complete the degree requirements within one year of the students last

⁸²⁴ *SOC Army Degrees*, accessed January 29, 2016, https://www.goarmyed.com/public/public_earn_degree-soc_army_degrees.aspx.

⁸²⁵ “ESJC Joins SOCAD,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, January 24, 1985.

⁸²⁶ *Enterprise State Junior College Catalog 1984-1985*, (Enterprise, 1984), 61-62.

⁸²⁷ “Fort Rucker Campus Enters 6th Year,” *The Southeast Sun*, May 2, 1990.

semester enrolled.⁸²⁸ Since college students traditionally have one year to complete their college degree requirements before they fall under a new college catalog, service members can “complete institutional residency at any time and avoid any ‘final year’ or ‘final semester requirements.’”⁸²⁹ With the recognition as a SOCAD college, Enterprise State continued to serve service members and their families.

⁸²⁸ *Enterprise State Community College 2015-2016 Catalog and Student Handbook* (Enterprise, 2015), 76.

⁸²⁹ *Ibid.*

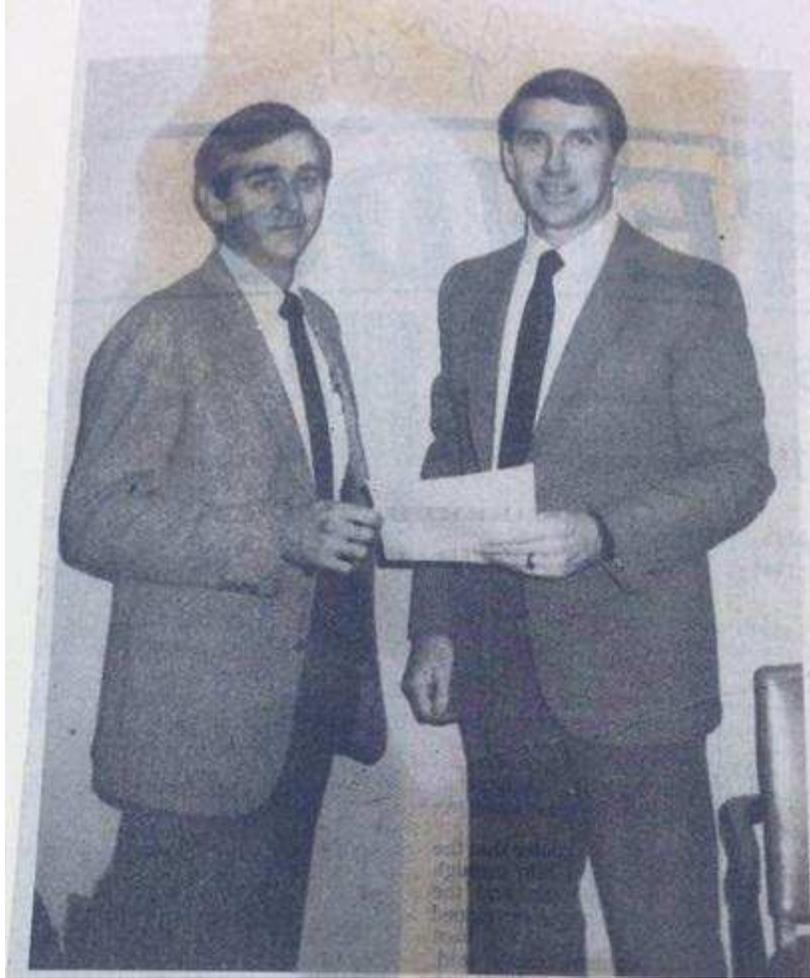


Figure 6.4. ESJC approved as SOCAD college, January 24, 1988.

On January 24, 1985, Enterprise State Junior College received notification that it had been approved to join the Service members Opportunity College Associate Degree Network. Pictured here are Associate Dean of Ft. Rucker campus (left) and Dr. David Chalker, Associate Dean of Admissions and Records (right).⁸³⁰

Another way the College assisted service members attending the Ft. Rucker campus was by offering flexible course schedules. Watt stated, “Flexible scheduling has been one reason for our success at Ft. Rucker. We offer classes in the daytime, in the evening and during the noon

⁸³⁰ “ESJC Joins SOCAD,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, January 24, 1985.

hour, and on television.”⁸³¹ Talmadge had stated, “television courses will be a tremendous part of our curriculum in the future” when he laid out his vision for the College.⁸³² In 1985, Enterprise State offered American History to 1877 and Introduction to Psychology both as a TV course.⁸³³ Students and veterans who had trouble attending class watched “30 half-hour telecasts on Alabama Public Channel 2 and will only have to come to the campus for the telecourse orientation and three or four times during the quarter for exams.”⁸³⁴ Offering TV courses was another alternative for veterans to obtain higher education.

By expanding the College, a partnership formed between the College and the military base. As Watt stated, “Our office space, utilities and the classrooms are provided by the military base, while the College designs the instructional programs and provides the personnel.”⁸³⁵ The partnership was successful. While many service members and their families enrolled in courses to earn an associate’s degree, many chose to take community classes to assimilate into military life and upgrade their employment skills. As *the Southeast Sun* noted in its article “Fort Rucker Campus Enters 6th Year,” “ESJC is also working with military families for whom English is a second language. A special short course is taught that provides practical experience in the use of English in such situations as restaurants, grocery stores and department stores.”⁸³⁶ The Ft.

⁸³¹ “ESJC’s Enrollment Triples at Ft. Rucker,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 3, 1986.

⁸³² Ben Stewart, “President Talmadge Outlines ESJC Plans,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, November 2, 1981.

⁸³³ “ESJC TV Courses Offered,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 15, 1985.

⁸³⁴ Ibid.

⁸³⁵ Ibid.

⁸³⁶ Ibid.

Rucker campus provided opportunities for higher education to the military base. Between Winter Quarter 1983 and Spring Quarter 1990, ESJC offered 370 noncredit courses to over 6,148 students.⁸³⁷

Title III Helps ESJC Women's Program to Become "A Model for the State"

Over Enterprise State's twenty-five year history, the College provided educational opportunities and programs for women. During the first 15 years, 1965-1980, males outnumbered females.⁸³⁸ By 1980, however, Enterprise State enrolled more females than males. Enrollments in 1980 included 771 males (40%) compared to 1,147 females (60%) of enrollments.⁸³⁹ By 1990, enrollments maintained the same percentages of 40% to 60% while enrollment numbers increased to 839 males and 1,274 females. What accounted for the increase in female enrollment? The College benefited from federal and state grant programs geared toward increasing higher education access to women.

Enterprise State began offering additional higher education and training opportunities for women during the 1970's. In 1974, Enterprise State offered a Women's Program that "helped women get back into college after their education had been interrupted."⁸⁴⁰ The Women's Program was successful, but a Women's Center was needed to meet the overwhelming number of women seeking higher education. The Women's Center offered "... more continuing

⁸³⁷ *ESJC Factbook*, 70-71.

⁸³⁸ *ESJC Factbook*, 123-124.

⁸³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁸⁴⁰ Reid Lambert, *1978 Progress Report on the Advanced Institutional Development Program at Enterprise State Junior College*. (Enterprise: 1978), 7.

education courses, special counseling, career exploration services, a referral source of community services, and special help for minority women.”⁸⁴¹ The College applied for and received federal support from the United States Department of Education’s Advanced Institutional Development Program (AIDP).⁸⁴² According to the Higher Education Act of 1965, the AIDP was created for “developing institutions which demonstrate a desire and potential to make a substantial contribution to the higher education resources of our nation.”⁸⁴³ The College received \$1.4 million from the AIDP and used these funds to assist women needing additional job training.⁸⁴⁴

By 1979, the College provided the Women’s Center to assist displaced homemakers or women who had “lost support of the persons for whom they had been financially dependent.”⁸⁴⁵ The Advanced Institutional Development Program allowed the College to establish the Women’s Center and the Career Development Center to assist women.⁸⁴⁶ These two programs received

⁸⁴¹ Ibid.

⁸⁴² Ibid.

⁸⁴³ “Higher Education Act of 1965 Title III,” accessed December 31, 2015, http://legcounsel.house.gov/Comps/HEA65_CMD.pdf. The Advanced Institutional Development Program was created under Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Reid Lambert, *1978 Progress Report on the Advanced Institutional Development Program at Enterprise State Junior College* (Enterprise: 1978), 7.

⁸⁴⁴ Lambert, *1978 Progress Report*, 7.

⁸⁴⁵ “Displaced Homemakers Given Support by Bauer and Keller,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, November 14, 1983.

⁸⁴⁶ Enterprise State continued to receive Title III assistance to increase access to higher education. In 1982, The College received another five-year Institutional Aid Program Grant. In 1987, the College received the largest grant ever awarded through the Title III Strengthening Institutions Program. The grant awarded \$2.5 million over five years.

national and state recognition. In 1981, the National Commission on Working Women recognized the Women's Center as "one of ten exemplary educational programs in the nation for working women."⁸⁴⁷ In 1985, Chancellor Charles Payne of the Alabama Community College System recognized Enterprise State's Career Development Center as a "model for the state," for providing career and occupational development for adults.⁸⁴⁸ These two programs provided additional access to women seeking higher education. As a result of these two programs increasing female enrollments, the College continued to receive federal and state funds to improve access to women.

In 1987, Enterprise State received a Women's Educational Equality Grant. According to Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972,

The Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) program was enacted in 1974 to promote educational equity for girls and women, including those who suffer multiple discrimination based on gender and on race, ethnicity, national origin, disability, or age, and to provide funds to help education agencies and institutions meet the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.⁸⁴⁹

Talmadge announced that the College had received \$132,536, one of sixteen institutions in the nation to receive the grant.⁸⁵⁰ According to Dr. Shirley Woodie, Dean of Development

⁸⁴⁷ *Enterprise State Junior College, 1990-1991* (Enterprise, 1991) 12-13.

⁸⁴⁸ Doug Paramore, "Auditorium Planned for ESJC this Year," *The Enterprise Ledger*, April 4, 1985. Charles Payne became Chancellor of the Alabama Department of Post-Secondary Education on November 6, 1983, upon the resignation of Howard Gundy.

⁸⁴⁹ "Women's Educational Equity," accessed January 29, 2016, <https://www2.ed.gov/pubs/Biennial/125.html>.

⁸⁵⁰ "ESJC Receives 1 of 16 Equity Grants," *The Enterprise Ledger*, October 20, 1987.

and author of the grant, “Three of the 16 grants were awarded in the Southeast with Enterprise State receiving the only grant in the state of Alabama. Since there are few such grants awarded, the agency selectively funds programs they feel will have a state-wide or national impact and that can also serve as models for other schools interested in implementing such programs.”⁸⁵¹ The funds for this grant will be used to build “a working partnership between the public schools and Enterprise State to strengthen career guidance of students.”⁸⁵²

In 1988, the College received another Woman’s Educational Equality Grant. On November 24, 1988, Talmadge announced, “ESJC has received a grant of \$125,339 from the Woman’s Educational Equality Act (WEEA) grant program in Washington, D.C.”⁸⁵³ The WEEA funds allowed Enterprise State to assist two specific groups of women. The first group the College focused on was “...undereducated and/or underemployed females both in and out of schools.”⁸⁵⁴ The second group focused on undereducated and underemployed woman already working.⁸⁵⁵ Both WEEA grants allowed the College to recruit women to attend the College.

⁸⁵¹ Ibid.

⁸⁵² Ibid.

⁸⁵³ “ESJC Wins Women’s Equity Grant,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, November 24, 1988.

⁸⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵⁵ Ibid.



Figure 6.5. ESJC receives WEEA grant, 1987 and 1988.

In 1987 and 1988, ESJC received federal funds through the Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA). In 1987 ESJC was awarded \$132,536, and in 1988 the College was awarded an additional \$125,339 through the WEEA. From left to right, Dr. Joseph D. Talmadge along with Dr. Shirley Woodie, Dean of Development, and Dr. Mary Bauer, Director of Community Development looks over the letter informing the College they were selected.⁸⁵⁶

The federal government was not the only entity involved in providing programs to assist women. Enterprise State benefited from the Alabama Department of Post-Secondary Education Displaced Homemaker Program (DHMP) and the Vocational Equity Grant (VEG) Programs. The DHMP provided financial assistance for women to attend college. The DHMP utilized a \$15,000 grant from the Department of Post-Secondary Education to provide tuition waivers for women enrolled into the program. Secondly, the program provided financial assistance for tutors

⁸⁵⁶ "ESJC Receives 1 of 16 Equity Grants," *The Enterprise Ledger*, 20 October 1987; "ESJC Wins Women's Equity Grant," *The Enterprise Ledger*, 24 November 1988

assisting female students. These tutors received \$4.00 an hour by assisting students needing additional support in their coursework.

The Displaced Homemaker Program received national and state recognition. In 1981, the Displaced Homemaker Program was recognized nationally by the Far West Laboratory for Educational Research, the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, and the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges “as one of 40 exemplary sex-fair programs in the nation.”⁸⁵⁷ In 1983, Dr. Mary Bauer, Director of Community Services and the Women’s Center at the College, was invited to present to the United States Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources in Washington D.C. on the program’s ability to increase access to women.⁸⁵⁸ Dr. Bauer informed the Committee the Displaced Homemaker Program was a part of Enterprise State’s institutional mission,

We consider the community or junior college a natural agency to provide educational counseling and job placement services to displaced homemakers. We have numerous resources already available that can be applied to the unique needs of this population, and perhaps most important, an integral part of our institutional mission is a strong commitment to responding to the needs of adults throughout our community.⁸⁵⁹

During the 1980’s, as federal support declined in assisting states in funding higher education programs, it was important for the Committee to hear from two-year colleges that had

⁸⁵⁷ *Enterprise State Junior College, 1990-1991*. (Enterprise, 1991) 12-13.

⁸⁵⁸ “Displaced Homemakers Given Support by Bauer and Keller,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, November 14, 1983. During President Ronald Reagan’s Presidency (1981-1989), federal assistance to state sponsored educational programs were reduced. See Zumeta et al., *Financing American Higher Education*, 72-73, on the decline of federal funding.

⁸⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

established programs to educate women. Bauer concluded that in three years, 1980-1983, the Women's Center had provided assistance to 500 women.

The second program sponsored by the Department of Post-Secondary Education included the Vocational Equity Grant.⁸⁶⁰ The Vocational Equity Grant provided the College with state funds to maintain its Women Center's during Talmadge's tenure. The Women's Center offered workshops and non-credit courses focusing on

identifying sources of financial aid, a higher concept of self-worth, applying decision making skills, help in developing goals, communication skills, accessing occupational interests, gaining admission to job training programs, coping with stress, providing legal information, money management techniques and a network support system for expanding the job search.⁸⁶¹

By 1988, over 800 women had received assistance through the Women's Center.⁸⁶²

Enterprise State received federal and state assistance to provide additional educational opportunities to meet the needs of women. Through the Title III program of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and the Title IX Higher Education Amendments of 1972, Enterprise State was successful in receiving grants through the Advanced Institutional Development Program, Strengthening Institutional Programs and the Women's Educational Equity Grant. The College also benefited from the Alabama Department of Post-Secondary Displaced Homemaker and Vocational Equity Grants.

⁸⁶⁰ Angela O'Donnel, "ESJC's Women's Program Help Unique Students," *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 11, 1985; Angela O'Donnel, "Displaced Homemakers Given Support by Bauer-Keller," *The Enterprise Ledger*, November 14, 1983.

⁸⁶¹ Angela O'Donnell, "ESJC Women's Program Help Unique Students," *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 11, 1985.

⁸⁶² Lee Ann Smith, "ESJC Provides Vital Service to Area Women and Men," *The Enterprise Ledger*, March 24, 1988.

Facilities Continue to Grow

In August 1982, Talmadge submitted an Institution Priority Report (IPR) to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and to the State Educational Budget Office.⁸⁶³ The IPR noted the College's request for future facilities. The request included "a teaching auditorium, a technical building classroom, an addition to the Learning Resource Center, and a classroom addition to the Health Building."⁸⁶⁴ Talmadge tried for years to get a Performing Arts Building (the teaching auditorium) on campus, but never saw the building come to fruition. Talmadge noted an auditorium was his fourth major goal as president, "I wanted to build an auditorium, a civic center. This community desperately needs one, but it is going to be very expensive. We've got the land, but it's going to take lots of money."⁸⁶⁵

In 1978, the College received \$628,000 towards the expansion of Forrester Hall to build a theater, but still needed an additional \$572,000 to complete the \$1.2 million dollar project.⁸⁶⁶ For five years, the College waited to break ground on the theater, but failed due to lack of funds. Local government leaders including Jimmy Holley, State Representative for Coffee County, tried to acquire the funds from the State Department of Community and Economic Development, but

⁸⁶³ *Enterprise State Junior College Institutional Self Study for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 1984.* (Enterprise 1984),331. According to the Self Study, any new construction or renovations must be approved by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and the State Educational Budget Office.

⁸⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁶⁵ Bobby Mathews, "President Talmadge to Retire after 30 Years," *The Weevil Eye*, February 23, 1994.

⁸⁶⁶ Pattie Weiland, "Legislators Optimistic Funds Will Be Found For ESJC Theater." *The Dothan Eagle*, January 16, 1984.

“learned educational institutions are not eligible for public grants.”⁸⁶⁷ Talmadge stressed the need for the theater because it would add an additional six classrooms on campus. Space was needed, not just for musicals and plays, but to provide additional classrooms due to increased enrollments. By 1984, Enterprise State enrolled 2,076 students.⁸⁶⁸

Enterprise State was not the only two-year college experiencing challenges from limited space to accommodate students. *The Dothan Eagle* reported on a recent study by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education indicating Enterprise State ranked third in two-year colleges needing more space.⁸⁶⁹ *The Dothan Eagle* noted,

...the junior college here [in Enterprise] is near the bottom of the 21 college list in the number of classroom square feet per student. In the state junior college system as a whole there is an average of 17.6 square feet of classroom space per student, but ESJC has only 11 square feet per student. Compare this to Brewer, [Brewer State Junior College, Fayette AL] which has 26 or to Northwest Alabama [Northwest Alabama State Junior College, Phil Campbell, AL] which has an incredible 41.3. Only Bishop State [Mobile, AL], with 10, and G.C. Wallace at Hanceville, with 9.7 have less than Enterprise.⁸⁷⁰

Talmadge recognized the need for the Performing Arts Building. He believed the community wanted a theater, but knew funding was key to building it. He had received support from local Representative Jimmy Holley and Senator Crum Foshee, but needed additional support from lawmakers and executives.⁸⁷¹ Talmadge began to advocate for additional funding by writing letters to legislators throughout the state. In each letter seeking support for the theater

⁸⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁶⁸ *ESJC Fact Book 1991*, 27.

⁸⁶⁹ Pattie Weiland, “Legislators Optimistic Funds Will Be Found For ESJC Theater.” *The Dothan Eagle*, January 16, 1984

⁸⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁸⁷¹ Ibid.

he stressed, “I have written to a number of other people asking them to help us too. The facilities we have, we take good care of. What we have, we keep. I tried to emphasize in all the letters we have taken care of what we have.”⁸⁷²

Talmadge also tried to work with Chancellor Charles Payne to secure the funding for an auditorium.⁸⁷³ On April 4, 1985, Chancellor Payne announced at the Enterprise Lions Club Meeting, “that an auditorium for the College has been given very high priority by the state and funding should be allocated for the project in 1985.”⁸⁷⁴ Enterprise State had the support from Payne to build a Performing Arts Building (PAB). The Alabama Legislature would decide if funding a PAB would be included in the State’s Educational Budget.⁸⁷⁵

The major problem legislators faced in 1985-1986 was limited funds to meet the state’s general and educational budgets. In order to meet the state’s General Budget, Governor George C. Wallace was successful at promoting his Oil and Gas Windfall Bill (OGWB). The Alabama Legislature passed the OGWB which invested \$347 million dollars into a permanent trust fund with the interest being added to the state’s General Fund.⁸⁷⁶ While the OGWB provided additional funds for the state’s budget, it did not provide any funds for the educational budget.

⁸⁷² Ibid.

⁸⁷³ Charles Payne was the second Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System. He replaced Dr. Howard Gundy, who served from 1982 to 1983. Payne served from 1983-1987.

⁸⁷⁴ Doug Paramore, “Auditorium Planned for ESJC this Year,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, April 4, 1985.

⁸⁷⁵ Alabama has two budgets. The first includes the General Budget, which covers non-education expenses. The second budget includes the Special Education Trust Fund covering educational expenses of the state.

⁸⁷⁶ “Budget officials advice legislators Wallace’s plan answer to money woe’s,” *The Gadsden Times*, 3 December 1984, B1. George Askew, “George C. Wallace” In *Alabama Governors A*

In 1985-1986, the education budget received a \$344 million dollar increase in funding.⁸⁷⁷ Talmadge was optimistic the Performance Art Building would be funded in 1985. He had the support from Chancellor Payne, Representative Holley and Senator Foshee, but the additional \$344 million could not be used to fund construction projects. As Representative Holley noted, “Capital Outlay has never been in the [education] budget before, the money generally comes from bond issues.”⁸⁷⁸ Instead of saving some of the funds from the \$344 million for the 1986-1987 fiscal year, the Alabama Legislature approved state employee raises, including 15% for tenured teachers, which spent majority of the money in fiscal year 1985-1986 and leaving a shortfall of funds for 1986-1987.⁸⁷⁹ For 1986-1987, Wallace proposed a 12% cut in higher education.⁸⁸⁰

In 1985, Wallace received support for statewide capital improvements by the Legislature approving a \$310 million dollar bond issue.⁸⁸¹ For the first time since 1978, the Legislature approved the sale of bonds for capital improvements in Alabama’s education system.⁸⁸² The

Political History of the State, Samuel L. Webb and Margaret E. Armbruster. (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press),229.

⁸⁷⁷ “School Funds House Offers a Textbook Case,” *The Tuscaloosa News*, April 8, 1985.

⁸⁷⁸ Doug Paramore, “Auditorium Planned for ESJC this Year,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, April 4, 1985.

⁸⁷⁹ “Wallace’s Budget Cut’s Send State Educators Reeling,” *The Gadsden Times*, January 19, 1986.

⁸⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸⁸¹ Askew, “George C. Wallace,” 229.

⁸⁸² “Education,” *The Tuscaloosa News*, February 4, 1985.

Alabama Legislature earmarked \$230 million for special projects throughout the state.⁸⁸³ The remaining \$80 million would be discretionary funds. Governor Wallace, State Finance Director Henry B. Steagall and State Superintendent of Education Wayne Teague, Officers of the Alabama Public School and College Authority, decided how the \$80 million would be spent.⁸⁸⁴

By November, 1986, Wallace announced \$56 million would be delegated out by the Alabama Public School and College Authority before he left office in January 1987.⁸⁸⁵ Enterprise State was not selected to receive any of the bond funds. The bond funds were allocated to two-year schools whose legislators supported Wallace. For example, Wallace State Community College-Selma received \$750,000 for a new fine arts building. State Representative Alvin Holmes noted, “They gave it [the surplus funds] to people who supported the governor.”⁸⁸⁶ The Authority controlled the money and Enterprise State did not receive funding for a Performing Arts Building.

Enterprise State never got a Performing Arts Building (PAB). The PAB was never built after Governor Wallace due to two reasons. First, Enterprise State lost support from the

⁸⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁸⁴ Tommy Stevenson, “School Bond Issue Tricky,” *The Tuscaloosa News*, April 21, 1985. Henry B. Steagall served in the Alabama Legislature from 1954 to 1970. During Governor Wallace’s third term, 1975 to 1979, he served as Executive Secretary to the Governor. During Governor Wallace’s fourth and last term, 1983 to 1986, he served as State Finance Director. On May 1, 1986, Steagall was appointed to the Supreme Court of Alabama by Governor George C. Wallace. Buddy Mitchell replaced Steagall as the State Finance Director.

⁸⁸⁵ “Wallace Officials Dole Out Millions for Schools,” *The Times Daily*, December 25, 1986. The article noted Wallace Community College-Selma was in the district of Sen. Earl Goodwin, who was a longtime Wallace supporter. By 1987, The Alabama Public School and College Authority consisted of Governor Wallace, Finance Director Buddy Mitchell, and Superintendent of Education Wayne Teague.

⁸⁸⁶ Ibid.

Department of Post-Secondary Education upon the resignation of Chancellor Payne. In 1987, Chancellor Charles Payne resigned after it was revealed he did not have an earned doctorate. Payne, who was appointed Chancellor in 1983, indicated on his resume he had an earned doctorate from the University of Alabama.⁸⁸⁷ Payne did not have an earned doctorate, but had an honorary doctorate from Athens State University.⁸⁸⁸ Payne who argued the “Chancellor’s position did not require a doctorate” escaped being terminated by the Alabama State Board of Education (ASBE) during the summer of 1987.⁸⁸⁹ The ASBE voted to allow Payne to keep his job, against the wishes of ASBE Vice-President John Tyson, Isabelle Thomasson, and Governor Guy Hunt.⁸⁹⁰ The debate to terminate or keep Chancellor Payne was a three-month struggle. By August 1987, after Payne provided a corrected resume to the ASBE and escaped another Board vote to terminate his employment, he resigned as Chancellor.⁸⁹¹ When Payne resigned as Chancellor, the Alabama Department of Post-Secondary Education support for Enterprise State’s theater was lost. A new Chancellor was hired, who was tasked to bring more stability to the two-year colleges.

In 1988, Fred Gainous replaced Charles Payne as the third Chancellor for the Department of Postsecondary Education. Gainous had been hired to bring more accountability to the two-

⁸⁸⁷ “Junior College Chancellor Doesn’t Have Doctorate as his Resume Indicated,” *The Tuscaloosa News*, June 20, 1987.

⁸⁸⁸ “Chancellor’s Degree Honorary,” *The Gadsden Times*, June 20, 1987.

⁸⁸⁹ “Chancellor Admits Resume Has Errors,” *The Tuscaloosa News* July 2, 1987.

⁸⁹⁰ “Board Retains Payne as Chancellor,” *The Gadsden Times*, July 15, 1987. See also, “Payne Resignation Mark of Power Struggle?” *The Gadsden Times*, August 30, 1987.

⁸⁹¹ “Payne Apologizes for Resume,” *The Times Daily*, August 26, 1987.

year system. The controversy over former Chancellor Charles Payne's resume had left the system shaken.⁸⁹² Gainous worked to fuse the Department of Post-Secondary Education into a unified system. Upon evaluating the two-year system, Lynn Cundiff, the Department of Post-Secondary Education's Vice-Chancellor for Administrative and Physical Relations, informed Gainous, "We have 42 fiefdoms out there, operating by a separate set of standards."⁸⁹³ Gainous focused on trying to unite the system with two priorities: establishing a budget for the whole system and merging two-year institutions.⁸⁹⁴

Prior to Gainous' appointment as Chancellor, each two-year college worked with its local district legislator. Many of these politicians were also employed by two-year colleges to provide additional funding for their institution.⁸⁹⁵ Once Gainous became Chancellor he called for each two-year college president to stop visiting local legislators during session.⁸⁹⁶ Gainous wanted to seek the legislature's assistance in establishing a unified budget for the Department of Post-Secondary Education. Traditionally, funding was based on which two-year institutions "had favor with House and Senate leaders."⁸⁹⁷ Gainous did not want each two-year college president

⁸⁹² "Chancellor Off to a Good Start," *The Tuscaloosa News*, April 8, 1988. Gainous served from 1988-2002.

⁸⁹³ "2-Year Colleges Chancellor Seeking to Unite the System," *The Tuscaloosa News*, August 22, 1988.

⁸⁹⁴ "Gainous Serious about Reforms," *The Tuscaloosa News*, August 22, 1988.

⁸⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁹⁶ "2-Year Colleges Chancellor Seeking to Unite the System," *The Tuscaloosa News*, August 22, 1988.

⁸⁹⁷ Ibid.

seeking their own budget.⁸⁹⁸ Instead, Gainous wanted the Department of Post-Secondary Education to have a “standard guidelines for budgets” to disperse funds among the two-year institutions.⁸⁹⁹ No longer would institutions request individual institutional budgets, instead the Colleges would work with Gainous on meeting institutional needs.

The second reason the theater was never build was due to a new governor, Guy Hunt (1987-1993).⁹⁰⁰ Hunt tried unsuccessfully to remove the two-year colleges from governance by the Alabama State Board of Education (ASBE) to governance by a five-member appointed board.⁹⁰¹ Hunt wanted to remove the two-year colleges under an appointed board to decrease the System’s expenses. Hunt, like former Governor Fob James, was unsuccessful. Since Hunt failed to remove the two-year schools from the ASBE, he supported two-year college mergers as a way to cut expenses.

During Hunt’s first term in office (1987-1991), eight two-year colleges were merged.⁹⁰² Hunt’s desire to cut expenses, along with Chancellor Gainous’s drive to create a unified system

⁸⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰⁰ Guy Hunt was elected governor in 1986 and served his first term from 1987-1991. He was re-elected in 1990 and was removed from office in 1993 due to an ethics violation while serving in office.

⁹⁰¹ Chip Alford, “Mean’s Feelings Mixed on Hunt’s Proposal for Higher Education,” *The Gadsden Times*, January 20, 1988.

⁹⁰² In 1989, the following technical colleges and junior colleges merged to form community colleges. 1) Nunnally State Technical College merged with 2) Alexander City State Junior College to form Central Alabama Community College. 3) Northwest State Junior College merged with 4) Northwest Alabama State Technical College to form Northwest Alabama State Community College. 5) Muscle Shoals State Technical College merged with the 6) Tuscumbia Campus of Northwest State Junior College to form Shoals Community College. In 1990, 7) Jefferson Davis State Junior College merged with 8) Atmore State Technical Institute to form Jefferson Davis Community College.

ended Enterprise State's campaign for a theater. Enterprise State never received funding for a theater. With the leadership change in the Chancellor's position and in the Governor's office, funding a new theater for Enterprise State never gained the needed financial support to be built.

While a theater never materialized, college facilities did grow under Talmadge. In 1989, Talmadge announced a "three part construction project."⁹⁰³ The three-phrase project included a new building to house the English and Social Science Divisions, additions to the Library, and additions to the Ray Lolley Health Building. Talmadge noted the improvements the additions to the library would make by stating, "The addition to the library will double the size of the reading room, and will provide space for all print materials (government documents, periodicals, books) to be located in one room."⁹⁰⁴ Talmadge also commented on the new English and Social Science Building, "... the project will give ESJC nine badly needed classrooms."⁹⁰⁵ In 1989, campus enrollments had grown to the highest level in history with 2,223 students.⁹⁰⁶

The English and Social Science Divisions produced the highest credit hours of production for the College.⁹⁰⁷ Prior to building the English and Social Science Building, these divisions taught courses upstairs in the George C. Wallace Administration Building. The College struggled

⁹⁰³ "ESJC Announces Construction Project," *The Enterprise Ledger*, January 26, 1989.

⁹⁰⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁰⁵ Jennifer Campbell, "\$1.5 Million Construction Continues at ESJC," *The Enterprise Ledger*, May 3, 1989.

⁹⁰⁶ *ESJC Factbook*, 55. Between 1988-1991, the Social Science Division produced 39,068 credit hours, and the English Division produced 31,405 credit hours.

⁹⁰⁷ Ibid, 56.

to provide adequate space for students enrolled in English and Social Science courses. One additional feature of the new English and Social Science Building included the Robert Conner Art Room.⁹⁰⁸ According to Talmadge, the Robert Conner Art Room, located in the center of the building, was designed “to expose our students to the very best in works of art and other educational exhibits.”⁹⁰⁹

In 1990, Dr. Fred Gainous, Chancellor of the Department of Post-Secondary Education, recommended that the new building be named in honor of Talmadge.⁹¹⁰ The Alabama State Board of Education (ASBE) agreed, and on October 26, the ASBE passed a resolution naming the new building, housing the English and Social Science Departments, Talmadge Hall. Talmadge was honored to have his name on the building. He stated,

You can never earn something like this. What pleases me is that I’ve been here for 25 years and this plot of ground has been home to me. I’m very proud of the institution, what it’s done and the support it’s gotten. When you have a building named for you, when you leave the scene, you still have a part of you there. I never want the day to come when I’m not a part of this school. It’s been such a part of my life.⁹¹¹

Talmadge had a lot of reasons to be proud of Enterprise State. In twenty-five years the College had conferred 4,538 degrees, awarded 1,319 certificates, built seven buildings, a maintenance

⁹⁰⁸ The Robert Conner Art Room is named for Robert Conner, who was a local real estate developer and supporter of the College.

⁹⁰⁹ Jennifer Campbell, “\$1.5 Million Construction Continues at ESJC,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, May 3, 1989.

⁹¹⁰ Kathy Newby, “Construction Nears Completion at ESJC,” *The Weevil Eye*, December 6, 1989.

⁹¹¹ Gary Watson, “Newest College Building Will Bear Talmadge Name,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, November 5, 1989.

shop, and a baseball and softball complex, opened a site in Ft. Rucker, and offered higher education courses to over 34,000 students.⁹¹²

Final Thoughts on Talmadge

Talmadge inherited a strong foundation upon the retirement of the College's first president, Benjamin Abb Forrester. Talmadge had helped Forrester build the foundation for sixteen years as the Dean of Instruction. During his time as the Dean of Instruction (1965-1981), the federal government invested unprecedented levels of funds to support higher education. During his presidency, Enterprise State relied more on private donations to continue to grow. In order to provide money for scholarships and training for faculty development additional sources of revenue were needed. No longer could state allocations and tuition dollars meet the demands of the College. In order to provide additional monies Talmadge recommended the College establish the Foundation.

The Enterprise State Junior College Foundation proved to be a huge financial asset for the College. The Foundation received additional sources of monies from local communities throughout the service area. During 1982-1990, Enterprise State was awarded two matching grants totaling \$150,000. The local communities took advantage of the opportunity given by the Department of Education and created a lasting source of financial assistance. Within three years, the Foundation had raised more than \$300,000. By 1990, 228 scholarships had been awarded to

⁹¹² *ESJC Factbook*, 58-63. See also, Joseph D. Talmadge, "Letter from the President," *The Weevil Eye*, September 25, 1990.

deserving students through the Foundation.⁹¹³ If Talmadge had not established the Foundation, the College would have missed receiving local and federal funds.

Talmadge, also saw the campus expand to include the Ft. Rucker campus. Ft. Rucker served two purposes by opening. First, it provided service members and their families another location to obtain higher education. In an effort to serve the Ft. Rucker community, the College joined the Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC) to reduce residency requirements and accept transfer credits from other institutions belonging to the SOC network. In addition to offering higher education courses, the College provided community courses to assist service members and their families with transitioning from military to civilian life and courses leading to an associate's degree. The Second purpose for the Ft. Rucker campuses was to reduce main campus congestion. By establishing an additional campus, Talmadge was able to increase enrollments off campus while relieving congestion on the main campus.

Finally, Talmadge was recognized for his contributions to higher education. While the Alabama State Board of Education named the new English and Social Science Building in his honor, he also was honored by other professional organizations. Talmadge was recognized twice as a leader among higher education administrators. In 1983, he was the recipient of the Kermit Mathison Outstanding Junior College Administrator Award given by the University of Montevallo.⁹¹⁴ The Kermit Mathison Award recognized Talmadge for his years of service as an

⁹¹³ Kathy Newby, "What is ESJC Foundation," *The Weevil Eye*, December 18, 1990.

⁹¹⁴ "Talmadge Pleased with Award, ESJC Recognition," *The Enterprise Ledger*, August 12, 1983. The Kermit Mathison Outstanding Junior College Administrator Award recognizes the top junior college administrator in Alabama. Dr. Joseph Talmadge was recognized with the Kermit Mathison Award in 1982-1983. Kermit Mathison served as the registrar at the University of Montevallo.

administrator, his outstanding organizational skills and support for higher education, his involvement in professional organizations, support from his peers, and contributions toward assisting local, state, and federal organizations.⁹¹⁵ Upon receiving the award Talmadge stated, “Every time Enterprise State was mentioned, [for] its high ranking among educational institutions, the quality of education it offers or the excellent students who transfer from ESJC were praised. These remarks made me really proud to be a part of this great institution. I want to thank all of the people of the Wiregrass for bringing this honor to ESJC.”⁹¹⁶

The second award Talmadge received was being identified as a transformational leader by the University of Texas at Austin. Talmadge was identified as one of 296 chief executive officers throughout the nation. The award was given to community or junior college “leaders who have successfully demonstrated the ability to build strong internal faculty and staff commitments to quality instruction and service to students.”⁹¹⁷ Upon being recognized Talmadge stated, “the heart and soul of Enterprise State is students. I believe it is my role to constantly emphasize the importance of our students and to commit and recommit the resources of the college- human, financial and educational- toward the goal of student development.”⁹¹⁸

⁹¹⁵ Ibid.

⁹¹⁶ Ibid.

⁹¹⁷ “ESJC’s President Wins Honors for Administration in Education,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, July 16, 1988.

⁹¹⁸ Ibid.



Figure 6.6. Joseph D. Talmadge receives Kermit Mathison Outstanding Junior College Administrator Award, 1983.

In 1983, Dr. Talmadge was awarded the Kermit Mathison Outstanding Junior College Administrator Award from the University of Montevallo. Here, Dr. Talmadge receives the award from the Kermit Mathison, who served as the Director of Admissions and Records.⁹¹⁹

⁹¹⁹ "Talmadge Pleased with Award, ESJC Recognition," *The Enterprise Ledger*, 12 August 1983.



Figure 6.7. Joseph D. Talmadge at the University of Texas, Austin, 1988. Dr. Talmadge was recognized by the University of Texas at Austin as a Transformation Leader in higher education. Here Dr. George A. Baker, Professor of Educational Administration from the University of Texas at Austin (left) congratulates Dr. Joseph D. Talmadge.⁹²⁰

Talmadge was proud of the recognition students brought to Enterprise State. For example, in 1990, the Enterprise State “Stock Market Team” placed third in the nation in the American Telephone and Telegraph Collegiate Investment Challenge stock market contest.⁹²¹ The contest allowed Enterprise State students to participate in a real life stock market buy and trade exchange. Students paid an entry fee of \$50 for \$500,000 in play money to invest in stock.⁹²² Over a four-month period, ESJC’s Stock Market Team grew to include forty students and twenty college employees. For over four months, students and college personnel bought and

⁹²⁰ “ESJC’s president wins honors for administration in education,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, 16 July 1988.

⁹²¹ Gary Watson, “ESJC ‘Stock Market Team’ Third in Nation,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, February 18, 1990.

⁹²² *Ibid.*

traded stock to see who could earn the most money. ESJC placed third in the national competition falling behind Tennessee State University and Miami Dade Community College.⁹²³

Another example of student success was exemplified by the Enterprise State Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) national honor society for two-year colleges. During the 1980's Enterprise State's PTK Chapter was continually recognized as a top ten chapter in the nation.⁹²⁴ In 1984, the College's PTK chapter was awarded the Most Distinguished Chapter in the Nation for "excellence in the Society's Hallmarks of Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Fellowship."⁹²⁵ In 1988, Dr. Jack Oden, PTK Sponsor, was recognized as the Most Distinguished Sponsor in the Nation.⁹²⁶

As Talmadge's career progressed he was able to adapt to the changing environment of higher education. Over the course of the College's twenty-five year history, Talmadge was there from day one. He witnessed the College grow from 256 to over 2,000 students. Talmadge was a part of building two foundations for the College. First, as the Dean of Instruction, he assisted in building a strong academic foundation. Second, as President, he welcomed local financial support by establishing the Enterprise State Junior College Foundation. In the College's first twenty-five years, Talmadge worked to establish both foundations that are still alive today. The fruits of his labor are seen every time a student walks across stage during commencement.

⁹²³ Ibid.

⁹²⁴ *Enterprise State Junior College 1991-1992 Catalog*, (Enterprise, 1991), 12-13.

⁹²⁵ Ibid. See also Phi Theta Kappa, "Hallmark Awards," accessed April 19, 2016, <http://www.ptk.org/Programs/HallmarkAwards.aspx>.

⁹²⁶ Ibid.

CHAPTER 7

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This history focuses on the first twenty-five years of Enterprise State Community College, 1965-1990. This study does not try to name every person or event that occurred during the time period. This historical study sought to identify major people, events, and issues during the first twenty-five years of Enterprise State Community College. In order to guide the study, four questions were identified:

- 1) What major events led to the establishment of the Alabama Community College System?
- 2) What local events led to the development of Enterprise State Community College?
- 3) What impact did the development of the Alabama Community College System have on Enterprise State Community College?
- 4) Who were the movers and shakers of the institution?

The first question asks to identify major events that led to the establishment of the Alabama Community College System. The Alabama Community College System was established due to four national events: the Servicemembers Re-Adjustment Act, the Civil Rights Movement, the birth of the baby boomers, and the launch of Sputnik. Each national event reminded Alabama politicians how far behind nationally Alabama's higher education system ranked in meeting the needs of its citizens. These events were critical to encourage politicians to pass legislation to advance two-year colleges in Alabama.

Alabama's World War II veterans lacked access to post-secondary institutions in order to utilize their Servicemembers Re-Adjustment Act (G.I. Bill) benefits. At the conclusion of World War II (1945), the Alabama School of Trades, located in Gadsden, Alabama (Northeast

Alabama) and the Decatur Trade School, located in Decatur, Alabama (North Alabama), were the only publicly supported vocational training institutions offered for WWII veterans in Alabama. Veterans living in northern Alabama had access to the Alabama School of Trades and the Decatur School of Trades. The location of the two trade schools created access problems for veterans throughout Alabama wanting to use their GI Bill. The lack of institutions hindered veterans from using their GI Bill and prevented the state from receiving guaranteed federal dollars to cover tuition and fees from veterans. In 1947, Representative George C. Wallace responded to the WWII veterans' needs and proposed the Regional and Vocational Trade School Act, creating four new trade schools. By 1953, there were six state supported trade schools in the state.⁹²⁷ These six trade schools became the foundation of the Alabama Community College System. As Dustin Smith has noted, "The Regional Vocational and Trade School Act of 1947 established a precedent for state support of a two-year educational system. The Act was a small-scale "pilot" of the junior college legislation that would eventually pass in 1963."⁹²⁸

The second event that led to the establishment of the Alabama Community College System was the Civil Rights Movement. The Civil Rights Movement had its origins in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* case. The Supreme Court ruled against legal segregation and began the process of federally supported integration throughout the nation. Alabama's political leaders did not support integration. Alabama politicians supported a

⁹²⁷ The first two trade schools included the Alabama School of Trades (1925), and the Decatur School of Trades (1941). In 1947, the Alabama Legislature passed the Regional and Vocational Trade School Act establishing four new trade schools which included; George Corley Wallace State Trade School (1948) in Dothan, Wenonah Trade School (1949) in Birmingham, Tuscaloosa Trade School (1951) in Tuscaloosa, and Southwest Trade School (1952) in Mobile.

⁹²⁸ Dustin Smith, "A Century of Change: The History of Two-Year Education in the State of Alabama, 1866-1963" (Ed.D. diss., University of Alabama, 2012), 156.

segregated educational system justified legally by the 1896 Supreme Court case *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which made segregation legal as long as state politicians funded education equally. Alabama politicians did not fund education equally. By 1947, Alabama politicians had funded the Alabama Teachers College (known as Alabama State University) in Montgomery, a branch campus of Alabama State University in Mobile, and Alabama A&M University in Huntsville. African Americans did receive one trade school, the Wenonah Trade School, under the Regional and Vocational Trade School Act in 1949.

In 1955, Alabama politicians passed legislation to create three new trade schools. One trade school was designated for whites and the other two trade schools were designated for African Americans. These two trade schools were built for African Americans in response to the 1954 Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education*, which outlawed public segregated school systems. Alabama politicians believed as long as they provided educational institutions for African Americans then Alabama's education system would not be forced to integrate. Huntsville State Vocational Technical College, located in Huntsville opened in 1962 and Carver State Technical College, located in Mobile, began in 1962 to maintain segregated education in Alabama.⁹²⁹ Once again, Alabama legislators established two-year colleges in response to a national event. *Brown v. Board of Education* prompted Alabama politicians to establish additional two-year colleges to resist integration.

⁹²⁹ By 1962, the Alabama Legislature had provided funding for three African American Trade Schools. The three trade schools included Wenonah Trade School, 1949; Huntsville State Vocational Technical College, 1961; and Carver State Technical College, 1962. These three trade schools would become a part of the Alabama Community College System. Wenonah Trade School is today Lawson State Community College in Birmingham. Carver State Technical College is now the Carver Campus of Bishop State Community College in Mobile. Huntsville State Vocational Technical College is now J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College in Huntsville.

The third national event that sparked the Alabama Community College System was the birth of 72.4 million Americans between 1946 and 1964, known as the baby boomer generation. The primary and secondary schools were the first to be presented with overcrowding problems from the baby boomers. By 1957, Alabama political leaders realized the baby boomers would present overcrowding problems for post-secondary institutions. Alabama's higher education institutions did not have enough space to accommodate the baby boomers. As a result of limited space, four-year colleges and universities began a selective admission process. Four-year institutions were not promoting open access for higher education. By establishing a selective admission process higher education enrollments declined. By 1960, Alabama ranked last in higher education enrollments.⁹³⁰ In a state that already struggled to provide access, institutions of higher learning did not need to become selective with admission criteria. Open access institutions were needed.

Providing adequate space was just one of the many problems politicians faced in preparing to improve Alabama's education system. In 1957, the Legislature established the Alabama Education Commission (AEC) to identify problems facing Alabama's educational system. The Commission identified limited space as one of the state's biggest problems. If the AEC did not prepare more classroom space to educate the baby boomers, many Alabamians faced the reality of not receiving higher education. The baby boomers presented a challenge to the nation, including Alabama, that higher education access needed to increase. While the Commission's main goal was to improve access for the baby boomers, their plans and rationale quickly shifted when the Soviet Union successfully launched the satellite Sputnik into orbit.

⁹³⁰ Wayne Flynt, *Alabama in the 20th Century* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2004), 240.

The fourth national event important to establishing the Alabama Community College System was the successful launch of the Soviet Union satellite Sputnik on October 4, 1957. The launch of Sputnik increased national awareness of how far ahead the Soviet Union was in academics, especially in the math, science, and technology fields. In order to close the gap, Congress passed the National Defense of Education Act (1958) which provided grants and low interest loans for students to attend college. Again, as with the Servicemembers Re-adjustment Act, the federal government invested in financial aid programs geared towards increasing access to college.

Prior to Sputnik, Alabama politicians focused on increasing access for technical education. Sputnik, revealed Alabamians' lack of access to higher education to Alabama's political leaders. Sputnik's launch shifted Alabama's political leaders focus from improving the overcrowded conditions, created by the baby boomer generation, towards focusing on increased higher education access. Sputnik's launch created urgency for Alabama's political leaders to increase access to higher education for the purpose of academics. Alabama's political leaders had prepared to learn the conditions of Alabama's educational system from the Alabama Education Commission (AEC). The AEC focused on identifying problems and improving Alabama's educational system.

In 1958, Alabama politicians received the recommendations from the Alabama Education Commission (AEC) to help solve educational problems. The AEC consisted of six committees:, the Instructional Program Committee, Personnel Committee, Buildings and Transportation Committee, Organization and Administration Committee, the Financing Education Committee, and the Higher Education committee. This study focused on the Alabama Education Commission's Higher Education Committee's recommendations to improve access to higher

education. In order to provide more access to higher education, The Higher Education Committee established a Junior College Subcommittee to review how junior colleges could increase availability to higher education.

The Junior College Committee provided six recommendations which included: establishing a statewide junior college program; receiving community support to establish, support, and maintain a junior college; locating junior colleges within driving distance; allowing the Alabama Legislature to establish and determine the locations of the junior colleges; seeking guidance from experts on meeting local needs; and striving for each junior college to receive accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Alabama's politicians did not establish any junior colleges as recommended by the Alabama Education Commission. For three years, Alabama's Legislators did not act on establishing junior colleges. In 1961, Representatives Emmitt Oden of Russellville, Pete Ray of Haleyville, and Pete Self of Hamilton successfully sponsored legislation to open a public state supported junior college in their district.⁹³¹ In 1963, Northwest Alabama State Junior College, the first state supported public junior college, opened in Phil Campbell, Alabama. If additional junior colleges were to be established, the initiative would have to come from strong legislators who could get approval from the Alabama Legislature.

Alabama political leaders tried to establish another locally supported public junior college in 1961 for DeKalb or Jackson County, but it failed to open due to funding.⁹³² In 1962,

⁹³¹ Dustin Smith, "Century of Change," 174.

⁹³² Ibid, 167.

Representatives Bill Nichols and Ashley L. Camp, Jr. sponsored legislation to establish a locally supported public junior college for any county with a population between 65,000 to 95,000 citizens that could financially support the two-year institution.⁹³³ Talladega County was the only county in the state that met the population criterion. Again, as was the case in 1961 with Northwest State Junior College, Talladega County had strong legislators who successfully passed legislation for a junior college in their home district. While the Talladega legislators may have pushed legislatively for a junior college, financially Talladega County could not support one.⁹³⁴

In order for two-year colleges to become available throughout Alabama, the state needed a politician who advocated for a two-year college system. It would take Governor George C. Wallace to enable the Alabama Legislature to pass legislation creating a dual system of trade schools and junior colleges, thereby establishing the Alabama Community College System.

Within five months of his inauguration, on January 13, 1963, Governor George C. Wallace's political ally Representative Rankin Fite presented Acts Nos. 92, 93, and 94. These Acts created, funded, and governed five new trade schools and five new junior colleges. While the House of Representatives easily passed the resolutions, the Senate failed to pass the two-year college program. The program met resistance from senators representing urban interests and from educational administrators working at four-year institutions. Also the State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Austin Meadows, did not support the two-year program for fear the two-year colleges would take money away from the primary and secondary systems. The program finally

⁹³³ J. Catherine Randall, "A Kudzu of Colleges: The Proliferation and Balkanization of Higher Education in Alabama" (Ph.D diss., University of Alabama, 2001), 33-36.

⁹³⁴ Ibid.

passed on May 3, 1963, after enduring, at the time, the longest filibuster in state history.⁹³⁵ Even when Wallace faced additional resistance from four-year universities and Dr. Austin Meadows, State Superintendent of Education, Wallace realized the two- year program passage depended on the Senate.

In Alabama, final authority lies in the hands of the Alabama Legislature. Wallace understood that in order for the two-year program to pass, his program needed support from urban senators. Wallace was able to break the Senate's filibuster by persuading urban senators to support his education plan or, in return, their districts would not receive new roads.⁹³⁶ Wallace's effective ability to force his agenda for two-year education established the Alabama Community College System.

The Alabama Community College System was a result of four national events that outlined the need for higher education. Each national event reminded Alabamians they lacked access to higher education. Since the Alabama Constitution of 1901 mandated all decision making to be made at the state level, local Alabama communities could not establish their own public junior colleges. Local communities needed a state elected politician to advocate in the state legislature for two-year colleges.⁹³⁷ George Wallace became the politician who advocated successfully for two-year education while he served in Montgomery.⁹³⁸ Once Governor

⁹³⁵ Stephen G. Katsinas, "George C. Wallace and the Founding of Alabama's Two-Year Colleges," *The Journal of Higher Education* 65, no.4 (1994): 448.

⁹³⁶ *Ibid*, 457-462.

⁹³⁷ Dustin Smith, "Century of Change," 198-201.

⁹³⁸ George C. Wallace served as State Representative from Barbour County from 1947-1951 and then served four terms as governor; 1963-1967, 1971-1979, 1983-1987. While he was a representative, he wrote the Regional and Vocational Trade School Act creating four new trade

Wallace's trade school and junior college program passed, the seeds of the Alabama Community College System were planted.

Local Events That Led to the Development of Enterprise State Community College

The second question focuses on local events that led to the development of Enterprise State Community College. In 1957, Roy Shoffner, local newspaper editor for *The Enterprise Ledger*, was the first to recommend post-secondary education for Enterprise, Alabama. Shoffner advocated for over five years (1957-1963) for a private junior college to serve the Wiregrass Area. During this time, the only post-secondary institutions in close proximity to Enterprise were George C. Wallace State Technical College in Dothan, Alabama, located thirty miles east of Enterprise, and Troy Teachers College in Troy, Alabama, located thirty-five miles north of Enterprise. Shoffner realized the only practical way to provide higher education for Enterprise's baby boomers was through junior colleges. During 1957-1961, Shoffner struggled to gain support to start a private junior college, but by October 1962, Shoffner gained some momentum when former Coffee County High School Principal, William E. Snuggs, spoke to the local Enterprise Quarterback Club in support of a local private junior college for Enterprise. Snuggs' endorsement increased local interest for a private junior college.

Mrs. Tera Averett attended the Quarterback Club meeting and asked Shoffner to speak on the importance of junior colleges to the members of the local Altrusa Club. Shoffner presented the need for a junior college based on two factors: the low cost of attending a junior college and access for students to the first two years of post-secondary education. The cost of higher

schools. In 1963, as governor, he established the Alabama Community College System. By the time he left office during his last term as governor, there were forty-one state-supported two-year colleges.

education and limited access hindered Enterprise citizens from acquiring post-secondary education. Shoffner feared access would only get worse as the baby boomers got older. After Shoffner completed his presentation, the Altrusa Club unanimously voted to support establishing a private junior college in Enterprise.

One month later on February 18, 1963, the Enterprise Lions Club held an open meeting concerning a private junior college. At the Lions Club meeting members learned four local businessmen, Barney Marsh, Clayton Metcalf, Martin Moates, and Roy Ellis, provided financial donations for a private junior college. These men believed a junior college would increase access to higher education while maintaining low cost. As Barney Marsh noted, “Since the classes began in 1965, the four of us have had twelve children to attend ESJC which means savings to us of thousands of dollars.”⁹³⁹

Within three months, the Enterprise Altrusa Club and the Lions Club meetings had created enough interest for the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce to appoint an Interim Junior College Committee to investigate the need for a junior college. On March 12, 1963, the Junior College Interim Committee invited Snuggs to address the community at a city-wide meeting concerning the advantages for establishing a private junior college. After Snuggs’ presentation, the audience voted unanimously to move forward with establishing a private junior college. The Chamber of Commerce created a permanent Junior College Committee to determine if the city of Enterprise could establish, support and maintain a private junior college.

In May 1963, the Junior College Committee announced the city of Enterprise could not financially support a private junior college. For two months the Junior College Committee (JCC)

⁹³⁹ “ESJC Became Reality Just Twenty Years Ago,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, May 16, 1983.

worked to determine where the college would be located, what courses would be offered, what credentials faculty needed, and how could the college financially support itself. The JCC determined, however, that a private junior college would lack the funding to be successful. While a private institution was never established, the research done by the JCC was used by the Chamber of Commerce to submit a proposal to win one of the five newly announced state supported junior colleges established by the Alabama Legislature on May 3, 1963.

For four months, local leaders worked with Assistant State Superintendent Benjamin Abb Forrester to obtain a state supported junior college. O. I. Cunningham, member of the Chamber of Commerce, submitted a proposal for a junior college based off the information the Junior College Committee acquired while trying to establish a private junior college. Local leaders raised \$65,000 in order to purchase the required 100 acres of land to be considered for a two-year college. By October 1963, citizens learned Enterprise would compete against six other cities that the Alabama State Department of Education Junior College Committee considered for a two-year college.

Enterprise State Community College was the dream of Roy Shoffner. Shoffner lit the spark citizens needed to learn about junior colleges. Once Shoffner's idea received support from William Snuggs, his spark became a flame that intensified as the Altrusa and the Lions Club supported the cause to establish a private junior college. Shoffner's dream for a private junior college failed due to lack of funding. The city of Enterprise could not financially support a private junior college. While local leaders were unable to establish a private junior college, their work was not in vain. On May 3, 1963, Wallace's trade school and junior college program was passed into law. Local Enterprise leaders were prepared to petition the state for a state supported

junior college. On October 9, 1963, Shoffner's dream for a two-year college became true. The city of Enterprise was awarded a junior college.

What Impact Did the Development of the Alabama Community College System Have on Enterprise State Community College?

The third question addresses what impact the development of the Alabama Community College System had on Enterprise State Community College. First, if the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) had not been established, Enterprise would not have received a junior college. In 1957, Roy Shoffner started a "bottom up" movement to establish a private junior college. By 1963, the "bottom up" movement failed. A "top down" movement occurred for Enterprise to receive a junior college. Due to the 1901 Alabama Constitution placing state power in the Alabama Legislature, local communities could not establish public junior colleges without the approval of the Legislature. On May 3, the Alabama Legislature created the ACCS. Acts 92, 93, and 94 created, funded, and governed a state supported trade school and junior college program. If the System had not been established, Enterprise would not have received a junior college.

Second, as the System developed, Forrester worked with other two-year junior college presidents to earn respect for the system. During the late 1960s and 1970s, the junior colleges were not respected by four-year institutions or urban politicians serving in the Alabama Legislature. The lack of respect was apparent by the funding the Alabama Legislature provided the System. The two-year colleges did not receive adequate funding from the state legislature. As this study indicated, state appropriations for two-year colleges, including Enterprise State, decreased while Enterprise State's enrollments increased every year during the 1960s and 1970s. Since politics played, and still does play, a major role in higher education, the System had to

have a voice to represent the individual junior colleges. Two-year colleges continually worked together to show they were aiding in preparing students to transfer to the four-year institutions. Throughout the first two decades of the System's existence, individual two-year colleges competed against four-year institutions for state allocations. The individual two-year institutions provided data showing they were needed and were meeting the needs of the local communities they served, but still failed to gain the needed funding to continue to grow.

No junior college was funded at an acceptable level. As this study noted, many two-year colleges had Alabama Legislators on their payrolls to ensure additional funds for their institutions. Enterprise State did not have a legislator on payroll during the first twenty-five years. In order for Enterprise State and other two-year institutions to provide input over concerns and problems they encountered, they needed a voice. For example, in 1968 Forrester, along with the other state junior college presidents and the System, provided data to the Alabama Education Study Commission to detail how the junior colleges provided access to higher education to the citizens of Alabama. Since the junior college presidents were not asked to serve on the Alabama Education Study Commission, the System had to make sure the Commission was aware of the specific problems faced by the junior colleges. The System served as their voice. Alabama's Legislators were not impressed with the individual enrollments at Enterprise State Community College. The College's enrollments did not compare to individual senior institutions. For example, in 1974, Auburn University enrolled 16,013 students compared to 1,303 at Enterprise State.⁹⁴⁰ However when Enterprise State's enrollments were included with the Alabama Community College System enrollments from all its institutions, the System outnumbered

⁹⁴⁰ Randall, "Kudzuing of Colleges," 93-94. See also *ESJC Factbook*, 27.

individual enrollments at four year colleges. The Alabama Community College System served 40,658 students.⁹⁴¹ As this study noted, the junior college presidents just wanted to receive allocations based on performance. If the Legislature would have funded higher education institutions based on performance, the System would have received more than the regional colleges or flagship universities.

Finally, the System assisted Enterprise State with funding. The additional revenue provided by the System allowed Enterprise State to offer additional programs for women. For example, the Displaced Homemaker Program and the Vocational Equity Grants provided additional funds for women to attend college. If the System had not provided funds, Enterprise State would not have been able to offer additional assistance to women.

Who Were the Movers and Shakers of the Institution?

The fourth question identified the movers of the institution. This study identifies four major impactful agents for the College; Benjamin Abb Forrester and Dr. Joseph D. Talmadge, the first two College presidents; the Alabama Legislature; and Congress. Each allowed the College to grow. The College was guided during its first sixteen years by Benjamin Abb Forrester (January 1, 1965 - September 30, 1981). During his presidency, he worked with four governors, Gov. George C. Wallace 1963-1967; Gov. Lurleen B. Wallace, 1967 - May 7, 1968; Governor Albert P. Brewer, May 8, 1968-1971; Governor George C. Wallace, 1971-1979; and Governor Fob James, 1979-1981, providing input on how the two-year colleges should serve their local community. Forrester believed in the two-year system and was dedicated to see Enterprise State succeed.

⁹⁴¹ Randall, "Kudzuing of Colleges," 93-94.

Forrester was the College's architect. He was the first employee hired, worked with local leaders to secure temporary facilities, determined permanent college building locations, reviewed building plans, recruited students, and hired the first faculty. During Forrester's tenure, he was involved in every major event at the College. During the 1960s, he guided the College through the Economic Opportunity Act (EOA) of 1964, which created the work-study program, established a Police Science Program due to the Omnibus Crime Bill of 1968, and led the College in becoming approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1969. During the 1970s, Forrester worked with the Alabama Institute of Aviation Technology (AIAT) to develop a partnership to award the Associate in Applied Science Degree for aviation students needing academic coursework. He successfully advocated for Enterprise to remain a junior college instead of becoming a branch campus of Troy University. He created a financial aid and veteran affairs office to serve students who needed financial assistance established under the Amendments of the Higher Education Act of 1972. Forrester realized how vital receiving federal and state funds were to ensure the College continued to grow. If there were federal or state funds available, Forrester ensured the College applied for them.

Forrester's biggest accomplishment at Enterprise State was that he earned the local people's trust. He is known as "Mr. Junior College" in Enterprise, Alabama, because, as the Assistant State Superintendent, he helped nurture the state's junior college program from 1963 to 1964.⁹⁴² When he arrived as the College's first president in 1965, many Alabamians did not know what a junior college was. He had to sell the idea to local school leaders and teachers who were skeptical of the junior college program. He was instrumental in getting Enterprise's junior college ready to open by 1965. If Forrester wanted or recommended anything, the community

⁹⁴² Roy Shoffner, "A Salute to Forrester," *The Enterprise Ledger*, September 30, 1981.

supported him. When Forrester saw a need for the College he moved on it and the community rallied with him.

The second president, Dr. Joseph D. Talmadge, was also a major leader of the College. Talmadge was the first Dean of Instruction and assisted Forrester with developing programs and course offerings. In 1981, he was promoted to the presidency where he established the Enterprise State Junior College Foundation. Unlike Forrester, who benefited from unprecedented federal and state funds, Talmadge relied heavily on local donated funding to replace decreased funds. Talmadge inherited President Reagan's beliefs to remove the federal government out of financing higher education. President Reagan felt the states should provide higher education.

Alabama's education budgets struggled during the Reagan years (1981-1989). Alabama politicians depended on federal funds to provide financial assistance towards higher education. As the College experienced reduced state allocations, Talmadge realized the community could help students attend the College by establishing the Foundation. The Foundation helped fill the gap of reduced federal funds to assist students with financing higher education. Within three years, the Foundation raised over \$300,000 dollars from local supporters. As a result, local students received scholarships. The federal governments' initiative to assist higher education institutions through a matching grant program opened the door for local communities to show their generosity towards the College.

In 1983, Talmadge expanded the College by opening a site in Ft. Rucker, Alabama, located nine miles east of Enterprise, to assist service members and their families. Service members attending the Ft. Rucker campus benefited from the College becoming a member of the Servicemembers Opportunity College Associate Degree (SOCAD) Network in 1985. By

becoming a member of SOCAD, service members no longer worried about their college credits not transferring to another institution. As long as the service member transferred to a SOCAD member college, the credits were guaranteed to transfer. The College had provided programs to assist service members with transitioning back to civilian life, but Talmadge provided a site for service members to earn a degree. The Ft. Rucker site is still open today.

Talmadge also enabled Enterprise State's facilities grow. Due to the success of the Women's Programs combined with annual enrollments exceeding 2,000, Enterprise was running out of space to provide classroom instruction. In 1989, Talmadge was notified Enterprise State was approved for a new facility. Talmadge was honored for his twenty-five years of service by having Talmadge Hall named in his honor. The College now included seven buildings on the main campus in Enterprise.

The third influential agency to the institution was the Alabama State Legislature. Alabama's Constitution designates overwhelming power to the Legislature. A local, city, or county cannot do anything without the approval of the Alabama Legislature. As a result, local community leaders could not, and still cannot, do anything without the approval from state politicians in Montgomery.⁹⁴³ As this study noted, the College was established, received funding, and is governed by the body appointed by the Alabama legislature, which was the Alabama State Board of Education during the first twenty-five years.⁹⁴⁴ It was the Alabama Legislature that appropriated funding for the College and provided funds for additional buildings.

⁹⁴³ Dustin Smith, "Century of Change," 189.

⁹⁴⁴ The Alabama Community College System was governed by the Alabama State Board of Education from May 3, 1963, until May 3, 2015. On May 3, 2015, the Alabama State Legislature established a separate board to govern the Alabama Community College System.

As this study indicated, during the 1970s some two-year colleges wanted to become four-year institutions. Many two-year colleges received support to move forward from the Alabama State Department of Education, but the idea to turn two-year colleges into four-year institutions was struck down by an opinion from Attorney General Bill Baxley who identified the Alabama Legislature as the only power with the authority to change the status of a two-year college. Since the Alabama Legislature created the system, the Legislature has the authority over the two-year colleges, and still does today.

Finally, the last major influence on the institution was the United States Congress. Enterprise State was established when the federal government instituted unprecedented financial support towards higher education. Enterprise State benefited from the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965. The HEA provided Title III Programs, which included the Advanced Institutional Development Program and the Matching Challenge Grants. Both these programs afforded the College new programs and funds to support the growth of the College. While the Alabama Legislature established the two-year college system, it was Congress providing financial assistance that allowed many students to attend. Title IV of the HEA of 1965 created work-study programs to provide financial assistance to students attending college. In 1972, Congress invested additional financial aid resources with the Higher Education Act Amendments of 1972. These additional financial aid resources increased Title IV aid programs to include pell grants and student loans. Both these programs benefited the College's enrollment.

Conclusions

One major conclusion can be drawn from this historical study: federal and state funding allowed the College to grow. With the assistance of federal programs such as the Federal Work-Study Program (1965), the Omnibus Crime Bill (1968), the Advanced Institutional Development Program (1976), Challenge Endowment Grants (1984 and 1986), Women Educational Equity Act (1987 & 1988), and state programs such as the Displaced Homemaker Workers Program and the Vocational Equity Act, each provided the College with additional dollars to grow.

If the College had not been able to provide Title IV federal financial aid programs, which includes student loans, Pell grants, and federal work-study, many students would not have been able to afford college. If federal Matching Challenge Grants had not been established, the College's Foundation would not have received over \$150,000 in federal matching grant dollars. In order for the College to meet the local community needs, external funding from state and federal resources was necessary.

If Alabama's legislators had not established the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority in 1963, Enterprise State would not have opened its doors in 1965. City leaders had already tried and failed to establish a private junior college. It took Governor George C. Wallace to successfully enable the Alabama Legislature to establish a two-year system. Without the support of Governor Wallace the two-year college system would have been delayed longer as many political leaders and four-year universities did not want the two-year colleges.

Another conclusion from this historical study was the never ending challenge in funding the two-year system. No local funding was provided in Act 92 in 1963. As a result of scarce funds, the two-year colleges competed against each other for limited state tax dollars. One way

individual two-year colleges responded to secure adequate funding was to hire legislators to work at their institution. This benefited many two-year institutions with capital improvements, but also opened the door to future scandals in the system.⁹⁴⁵

The third conclusion this historical study identifies is the important contribution local citizens provided the College. While the state legislature enabled Wallace to establish a system of two-year colleges and the federal government provided additional financial resources, it was the local people who took advantage of the higher education opportunities offered to them by the state and federal government. If local citizens did not contribute or local students did not attend the College, then the two-year program would have failed. It was administrators who wrote and applied for federal grants to assist with additional funding. It was the faculty preparing students to transfer to four-year institutions. It was local students who attended the College and provided a source of revenue by paying tuition. If the College had not been successful at enrolling students, then the College would not have received additional state and federal funding. The College had to show it was making a difference in the community.

It was local Coffee County Representatives Drexel Cook (1958-1970), Douglas Easters (1970-1974), Joel Folmar (1974-1978), Jimmy Holley (1974-1994), and Senators Ray Lolley (1963-1967), Wallace Miller (1976-1982), and Crum Foshee (1974-1994) who advocated for additional dollars to construct buildings.⁹⁴⁶ It was local educators, civic leaders, students, and

⁹⁴⁵ For more information concerning scandals in the Alabama Community College System see Donald Kelly, "Unethical Leadership in Higher Education and the Precarious Journey to Recovery: A Case Study of the Alabama Community College System" (Ed.D diss., University of Alabama, 2009).

⁹⁴⁶ *Roster: House of Representatives (Beginning January, 1922 Term of Office)*, accessed, December 28, 2015, http://www.legislature.state.al.us/aliswww/history/house_roster.mht, accessed on December 28, 2015.

parents who used the opportunities provided by state and federal government politicians to grow and maintain a junior college in Enterprise, Alabama. If state and federal legislatures had not provided programs to assist higher education, local leaders would not have had the opportunity to maintain a college in Enterprise, Alabama.

Recommendations

This historical study documents the first twenty-five years of Enterprise State Community College. While this history does not detail every single event in the College's history, it does detail how the College was established and the significant events under the leadership of the institutions first two presidents, Benjamin Abb Forrester (1965-1981) and Joseph D. Talmadge (1981-1994). While this history is presented from a local prospective, many state and federal leaders and events were identified that impacted the College.

Enterprise State celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on October 29, 2015. The celebration was sponsored by the Enterprise State Community College Foundation. In the last twenty-five years (1990-2015), the College has endured a number of transitions. Since Dr. Joseph D. Talmadge's retirement in 1994, the College has had four presidents serve.⁹⁴⁷ In 2003, the College merged with George C. Wallace Community College's Aviation campuses in Ozark, and Mobile, Alabama. The College has opened additional aviation campuses in Albertville, Andalusia, and Decatur. The College lacks a recorded history for these more recent leaders and events. In order

⁹⁴⁷ Upon the retirement of President Talmadge in 1994, Dr. Stafford L. Thompson was named Interim President in 1994 and appointed as the full time president in 1996. Dr. Thompson served from 1994-2008. In 2008, Dr. Nancy Chandler was named interim president and appointed President in 2009. Dr. Chandler served from 2008-2014. In March 2014, Dr. Cynthia Anthony was named Interim President and served until October 2015. In October 2015, Dr. Vicky Ohlson was named Interim President.

to provide a complete history of Enterprise State Community College, the next twenty-five years, (1990-2015) must be written.

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APPENDIX: SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURES AND TABLES

COUNCIL:
R. W. ANDREWS
PRESIDENT OF
COUNCIL
DOUGLAS FRAGIN
RAY LOLLEY
S. M. MATTHEWS
R. F. PASCHAL

City Of Enterprise

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
M. N. BROWN, MAYOR
H. G. BAXLEY, CLERK-TREASURER
W. G. REYNOLDS, ASST. CLERK-TREASURER
ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA
August 19, 1963

OFFICERS:
J. S. PITTSMAN
CITY ATTORNEY
MARVIN W. MARTIN
CITY ENGINEER
HENRY SAYLOR
CHIEF OF POLICE
J. E. HUDSON
STREET SUPT.
CLYDE LAYTON
WATER WORKS
SUPERVISOR
H. G. ELLIS
FIRE CHIEF

Mr. Ben A. Forrester
Chairman, Alabama Junior College Committee
State Department of Education
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forrester:

We should like to urge you and all members of the Junior College Committee to give favorable consideration to Enterprise for the location of a state junior college to serve South East Alabama.

We feel that our community has an ideal location geographically to serve the Wiregrass area and that an educational institution of this type here would soon gain a full student load.

The leading citizenry has shown a vital interest in establishing a junior college for more than two years. No program has so completely enlisted the vital interest and support of the people of our town as has the program of a junior college at Enterprise.

The enclosed Enterprise city map shows several alternate sites of from 75 to 100 acres that are available either of which we believe would be quite suitable for the junior college. We would be proud to show these sites to your committee. The City of Enterprise will provide access paving, adequate sewage facilities, water service and natural gas lines to serve which ever of these sites which would be most suitable. Electrical service is available thru Alabama Power Company.

Thanking you for your favorable consideration, we are,

Sincerely yours,

CITY OF ENTERPRISE

M. N. Brown
M. N. Brown, Mayor

Enclosure

Figure A.1. Letter from M. N. Brown to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 19, 1963.⁹⁴⁸

⁹⁴⁸ Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 2.

DR. JAMES W. DOBBS

OPTOMETRIST

207 SOUTH MAIN STREET * ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA * TELEPHONE FI 7-8900

August 13, 1963

Mr. B. A. Forrester
Chairman, Junior College Committee
State Department of Education
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forrester:

The Enterprise Education Association began in 1958 when I helped a young colored boy go to college. In 1960 I was able to help another boy attend optometry school. This year he received his degree.

In February, 1962, we got up enough funds (\$510) from individuals in Enterprise to start the Bill Cameron fund. A boy and girl are now attending college on this fund program.

We are now in the process of getting a fund drive started to get everyone in Enterprise to give one dollar a year to this fund. We hope to raise at least \$5000 yearly.

I hope this will let you know how much I want to see boys and girls to have a chance to receive an education.

We will appreciate it very much to be considered for a Junior College in Enterprise.

Your friend,
James W. Dobbs
Jim Dobbs, D.O.

Figure A.2. Letter from James W. Dobbs to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 13, 1963.⁹⁴⁹

⁹⁴⁹ Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 22

402 Mixson Street
Enterprise, Alabama
August 12, 1963

Mr. B. A. Forrester, Chairman
Junior College Committee
Department of Education
State of Alabama
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forrester:

Our sorority has a vital interest in the youth of this area and the educational facilities afforded them. We are naturally pleased with the State's program for locating several junior colleges in the various areas which are not presently favored with higher educational institutions.

As a testimony of our interest in the education of our youth, we gave a \$100 scholarship this year to a graduating senior girl. We have set aside an annual scholarship of \$100, and in time, we hope to increase the amount of this scholarship, or to offer several such scholarships. We have had tremendous support in raising funds for the scholarship.

We would be extremely happy to see a junior college in Enterprise, and we would lend any possible assistance to its successful establishment in our area.

Thanking you for your time and interest, I am

Very truly yours,



(Miss) Elaine Smith
President
Gamma Kappa Chapter
Beta Sigma Phi International

ES/

Figure A.3. Letter from Elaine Smith to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 12, 1963.⁹⁵⁰

⁹⁵⁰ *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 25*



ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA

August 9, 1963

Mr. Ben A. Forrester
Chm. State Junior College Committee
State Board of Education
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forrester,

In order to express our continued support of the community interest in obtaining and locating a Junior College in our area, our Club at its regular meeting on July 31, 1963, voted and unanimously approved a motion to set up a \$1000.00 scholarship fund, its use restricted entirely to worthy applications to this Junior College, if and when such a facility is established in our area.

Your support and influence in our behalf will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Z. W. Crumpler
Z. W. Crumpler, Secy-Treas
Enterprise Lions Club
Enterprise, Alabama

Figure A.4. Letter from Z. W. Crumpler to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 9, 1963.⁹⁵¹

⁹⁵¹ *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 26*



Enterprise Rotary Club
ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA

August 13, 1963

Mr. Ben A. Forrester
Chm. State Junior College Committee
State Board of Education
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forrester,

In order to express our continued support of the community interest in obtaining and locating a Junior College in our area, our Club at its regular meeting on August 13, 1963, voted and unanimously approved a motion to set up a \$1,000.00 scholarship fund, its use restricted entirely to worthy applications to this Junior College, if and when such a facility is established in our area.

Your support and influence in our behalf will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Clark Edwards, President
Enterprise Rotary Club

Figure A.5. Letter from Clark Edwards to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 13, 1963.⁹⁵²

⁹⁵² *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 27*

MRS. FRANCIS BROWN, ORGANIST
MISS MARY MAC CHANCEY, PIANIST

MRS. WHIT CARMICHAEL, SECRETARY
RANDALL HOLMES, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
AND YOUTH

First Methodist Church

MARVIN K. VICKERS, MINISTER

ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA

August 12, 1963

Mr. Ben A. Forresters
Chairman of Junior College Committee
State Office Building
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forresters:

Our community is very interested in the possibility of obtaining one of the new Junior Colleges which shall be located by the State Department of Education. We offer many attractive inducements which I beg your consideration.

Speaking primarily for the Methodist Church in the city of Enterprise, let me say that we have three such churches in our community, all of which have attractive facilities for any college faculty or student body. First Church, in particular, is a most detailed plant with full staff, including a Director of Youth. We are in the process of constructing a new activities building which could lend itself admirably to college students. The Methodist Church as a whole, through its General Board of Education, makes available from time to time loans and scholarship helps which would be appropriated through our local church. The attractiveness of religious surroundings of Enterprise would add considerably to any college town.

Thanking you for your consideration in this matter, I remain,

Sincerely,

M. K. Vickers
M. K. Vickers

Figure A.6. Letter from M. K. Vickers to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 12, 1963.⁹⁵³

⁹⁵³ *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 28*

CHAS. O. STOKES
ATTORNEY AT LAW
BANK OF OZARK BUILDING
OZARK, ALABAMA

August 14, 1963

Mr. B.A. Forrester, Chairman
Junior College Committee
Department of Education
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forrester:

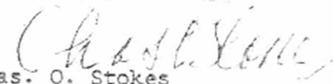
Since the enactment of the Legislative provision relative to the Alabama Junior College Program, we strongly believe that one of these schools located in Southeast Alabama would best serve the educational interests of the State, particularly the youth of this area.

It appears to us that it would best serve the people by the location of this school at Napier Field in Dale County.

However, if this is not deemed a suitable location, then I believe the area in or around Enterprise would be readily accessible to a large segment of the population in this area.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


Chas. O. Stokes

COS:pjh

Figure A.7. Letter from Chas O. Stokes to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 14, 1963.⁹⁵⁴

⁹⁵⁴ *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 30*

LAW OFFICES
BROWN AND STEAGALL
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
35 SOUTH COURT SQUARE
OZARK, ALABAMA

DOUGLAS BROWN
HENRY B. STEAGALL, II

August 14, 1963

P. O. BOX 124
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Mr. B. A. Forrester
Chairman, Junior College Committee
State Department of Education
Montgomery, Alabama.

Dear Mr. Forrester:

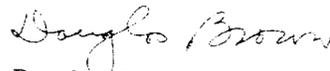
I would like to urge that the location of one of the Junior Colleges be located in Enterprise by your committee.

My brothers and I are engaged in business in Enterprise, and if you locate one of these schools there we pledge our wholehearted support to it.

Enterprise is ideally located in Southeast Alabama, and it has every advantage to offer to the successful operation of the school plus a most cooperative City and County government. Its location near Fort Rucker would enable many students to attend school from the military families that are stationed there.

If there is any way that we can assist the Committee or any co-operation that we can render it in the location of one of the Junior Colleges in Enterprise please feel free to call upon us.

Yours very truly,



Douglas Brown,
Attorney at Law.

DB/oa

Figure A.8. Letter from Douglas Brown to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 14, 1963.⁹⁵⁵

⁹⁵⁵ Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 31

Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Alabama
Elba, Alabama

ERIS F. PAUL
JUDGE

15 August 1963

OLIVEN JENNIGAN
REPORTER

Hon. Ben A. Forrester, Chairman
State Junior College Committee
State Office Building
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forrester:

I have observed from news releases that the City of Enterprise is interested in one of the junior colleges to be established in the near future. This letter is intended to call to your attention some of the advantages of Enterprise for this purpose.

It is obvious that the geographical location of Enterprise is such that it would enure to the services expected to be rendered by the junior college. Enterprise has had a steady growth over the years. It is surrounded by excellent agricultural areas, has its share of industry, new and old, and is in near proximity of other cities and towns needing services expected to be rendered by a junior college facility. This area of Alabama has long been lacking in nearness to college opportunities. The nearest college is Troy, which of course, specializes in the field of education. The University and Auburn are many miles away. It is understood that one of the functions of the junior college system will be to bring education closer to the people.

While I am not a resident of Enterprise, I have served them in the capacity of circuit judge for many years. I have observed their civic pride and spirit of cooperation over these years. I can state with much frankness that I know of no community anywhere with better civic cooperation than has Enterprise. Proof of this is in their educational program over the last few years, including their instructional program and capital outlay. Whatever is needed to get a job done, they do it.

Enterprise is led by a group of young civic minded businessmen. I am certain that if one of these junior colleges is located in their city, every effort would be forthcoming from these citizens to see that it is a real success. The serious consideration of your committee is respectfully invited for Enterprise and this region of Alabama.

Sincerely yours,
Eris F. Paul
ERIS F. PAUL

Figure A.9. Letter from Eris F. Paul to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 15, 1963.⁹⁵⁶

⁹⁵⁶ Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 35

J. D. ENGLISH
JUDGE OF PROBATE
J. H. ENGLISH
PROBATE CLERK



BLACK LINES DENOTE PAVED ROADS
COFFEE COUNTY
ELBA, ALABAMA

COURT OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
EUGENE BROWN, DIST. NO. 1
CLAUDE YINDOL, DIST. NO. 2
QUANBY WHITMAN, DIST. NO. 3
BUSTER BOWDEN, DIST. NO. 4
J. W. KENDRICK, SECTION
H. S. LANGLEY, ENGINEER

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there has been enacted by the legislature of the State of Alabama; an act providing for the establishment of junior colleges in Alabama, and

WHEREAS, the location of said junior colleges is still under-study by the appointed committee, and

WHEREAS, we the Commissioners of Coffee County consider Enterprise geographically located ideally for such a junior college to serve a radius of forty (40) to fifty (50) miles of Southeast Alabama generally referred to as the Wiregrass Area, the Coffee County Court of Commissioners urges the favorable consideration of Enterprise, Coffee County, Alabama for the location of a junior college.

Now therefore be it resolved by Coffee County Commissioners Court in session this day August 12, 1963 in Elba, as follows,

That the Commissioners cooperate collectively and severally with all other city or civic organization or committees in Enterprise or other areas of Coffee County by any and all means within its authority to the ending of having Enterprise selected as a site for one of these State Junior Colleges.

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honorable George Wallace, Governor of Alabama, Austin Meadows, State Superintendent of Education, the Honorable Drexel Cook, State Representative, the Honorable Ray Lolley, State Senator and all members of the Alabama State Junior College Committee and any other leaders who may be related to or concerned with the establishment and location of a State Junior College.

The foregoing resolution offered by Commissioner - Brown, duly seconded by Commissioner Whitman and unanimously adopted by the Court of Coffee County Commissioners. All voted I.

COFFEE COUNTY COURT OF COMMISSIONERS

BY J. D. English
JUDGE

Figure A.10. Resolution of the Coffee County Court of Commissioners, August 12, 1963.⁹⁵⁷

⁹⁵⁷ Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 37

Enterprise City Schools

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA

July 26, 1963

Mr. B. A. Forrester, Chairman
Alabama Junior College Committee
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forrester:

For some time many of the leading citizens in Enterprise have felt that a junior college here would contribute greatly to education in Southeast Alabama.

I feel that since you served one year as Principal of the Enterprise High School you will recognize what an advantage a junior college would have by being located in Enterprise. All schools in Enterprise, high and elementary, white and black, will be accredited by the Southern Association this next school year. This within itself speaks better than anything else about what the people in Enterprise think of education. There is not another public elementary school in the State of Alabama that has been evaluated and accredited by the Southern Association.

Due to Enterprise being located within six miles of Fort Rucker, our school system has gained national recognition as being one of the outstanding school systems in the country. What I am trying to say is that Enterprise believes in and will support a good school program. They have done just that for the elementary and high schools here and I feel sure that they will support a junior college.

I am sure that you know Enterprise's interest in a junior college did not begin with the announcement made by Governor Wallace. Plans have been in the making for a number of years to establish a junior college in Enterprise. Several committees were meeting regularly before Governor Wallace was elected. We know we have something to offer in location and other things that would make for the success of a junior college in this area.

I am soliciting your support and efforts in this cause.

Sincerely yours,

R. R. Snellgrove
R. R. Snellgrove
Superintendent

Figure A.11. Letter from Royce Snellgrove to Benjamin A. Forrester, July 26, 1963.⁹⁵⁸

⁹⁵⁸ *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 38*

Mayor
Dozier Roberts
* * *
Councilmen
L. S. Stephens
Rulon Beville
Simon Taylor
Jasper J. Lindsay
Owen E. Glio

CITY OF ELBA
"The City Of Flowing Wells"
ELBA, ALABAMA
Telephone 297-2323 or 297-2361

City Clerk
Harold Deal
* * *
Police Department
Jack Brown, Chief
* * *
Electric & Water Dept.
L. D. Brown, Supr.

August 16, 1963

Mr. Ben A. Forrester
Chairman State Junior College Comm.
State Office Building
Montgomery, Alabama

Sirs:

It is my understanding that a junior college will be located in South Alabama soon. I beg you to please give every consideration to Coffee County and to Enterprise. I personally feel that locating a college of this type in Enterprise would serve to a better advantage more people in south Alabama than any other locality in this area.

Please know that I will appreciate it very much if you will give this request every consideration. I am

Respectfully yours,
Dozier Roberts
Dozier Roberts, Mayor

DR/gw

Figure A.12. Letter from Dozier Roberts to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 16, 1963.⁹⁵⁹

⁹⁵⁹ Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 34

OFFICERS
HARRY P. HALL, PRESIDENT
JOHN D. AYRES, VICE-PRESIDENT
ROBERT S. HALL, VICE-PRESIDENT
NORA M. BLOUNT, SECRETARY



DIRECTORS
JAMES H. AYRES, JR., ALABAMA
WALTER H. HALL, ALABAMA
WALTER H. HALL, ALABAMA
WALTER H. HALL, ALABAMA

DOOTHAN FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

DOOTHAN, ALABAMA

August 14, 1963

Mr. Ben A Forrester, Chairman
Junior College Committee
State Department of Education
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forrester:

It is my pleasure to join with some of the good people of Enterprise in urging you to consider that city as an advantageous location for one of Alabama's proposed new junior colleges.

It is centrally located in the great wiregrass area. It has a good city school system, excellent churches, and fine medical facilities.

The spirit and enthusiasm of its leading citizens help make Enterprise an attractive city. While I would of course not want to say anything that would impair whatever chances Dothan may have in obtaining one of the junior colleges, I cannot help but commit myself to the fact that Enterprise is an ideal community for such an institution.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry P. Hall".

Harry P. Hall

HPH/as

Figure A.13. Letter from Harry P. Hall to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 14, 1963.⁹⁶⁰

⁹⁶⁰ *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 39*

Kinston Public SchoolsE. C. NEVIN, PRINCIPAL
Kinston, Alabama

Aug. 17, 1963

Mr. Ben A. Forrester, Chairman
State Junior College Committee
State Department Of Education
State Office Building
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forrester:

The following is written in behalf of efforts to secure the location of a state supported Junior College at Enterprise, Alabama.

We, in the Kinston area, are very much interested in this matter. We are located such a great distance from any institution of higher learning that many of our best college prospects find it very hard and sometimes nearly impossible to continue their formal education after high school graduation. On the other hand, our close proximity to Enterprise would certainly mean that many of our young people will use this facility.

We therefore respectfully ask that very serious consideration be given to the location of a state supported Junior College at Enterprise.

Yours very truly,

E. C. Nevin
E. C. Nevin

ECN/1

Figure A.14. Letter from E. C. Nevin to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 17, 1963.⁹⁶¹

⁹⁶¹ *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama*, 40

August 16, 1963

The Honorable George C. Wallace
Governor
State of Alabama
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Sir:

It is my considered opinion that one of the proposed junior colleges planned during the current administration should be located in the city of Enterprise, Alabama.

I have observed that there are numerous young high school graduates, both in the towns of Geneva County and in the rural areas, who are unable to continue higher education. The fact that Enterprise is within easy commuting distance would enable many of these to further their learning, while remaining at home. I believe that by encouraging these youth toward higher education in their own part of the state, we would stabilize the economy of our county.

Enterprise has much to offer as a locale of a junior college. Its city schools, I have observed, maintain very high standards and offer excellent college preparatory curriculum. Many of these students would take advantage of the opportunity to attend college at or near home. The city is progressive and growing, and the townspeople have much civic pride. A fine Chamber of Commerce, federated garden clubs, active civic and cultural organizations would undoubtedly lend their support to a junior college.

I trust that you will use your influence on behalf of the people of Geneva and Coffee counties, to locate a junior college in the city of Enterprise.

Sincerely yours,

George A. Black

Copy to:
Mr. O. I. Cunningham
Mgr., Enterprise Chamber of Commerce

Figure A.15. Letter from George A. Black to George C. Wallace, August 16, 1963.⁹⁶²

⁹⁶² *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama*, 41

SESSIONS COMPANY, INC.

ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA

August 14, 1963

L. H. SESSIONS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Mr. B. A. Forrester, Chairman
Junior College Committee
Department of Education
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forrester:

Our company is very much interested in having a Junior College located in Enterprise. Through the years, we have employed a number of young people who could have developed into valuable citizens if they had had more opportunities for a better education, and it is more important than ever at this time.

We hope that this college can be located in Enterprise, as its location here would serve a large area and help further the education of many young people who are now denied this opportunity.

We will appreciate the consideration of your committee.

Sincerely yours,
SESSIONS COMPANY, INC.
L. H. Sessions
Chairman of the Board

LHS:M

Figure A.16. Letter from L. H. Sessions to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 14, 1963.⁹⁶³

⁹⁶³ *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 42*


HAYES
INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
FORT RUCKER DIVISION
FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA

12 August 1963

Mr. Ben A. Forrester
State Junior College Committee
State Department of Education
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Forrester:

This corporation notes with interest the State of Alabama's program to construct five junior colleges and five trade schools on locations not selected at this time.

We would like to recommend that Enterprise, Alabama, be your choice for one of these junior colleges for numerous reasons. We continue to have openings for trained personnel both from the technical standpoint and the dire need of academic training. We have numerous specialized jobs whereby training is conducted with the assistance of the various manufacturers of aircraft and components; however, the lack of previous academic background naturally presents us with a serious handicap in the selection of personnel for this type of training.

We will gladly give assistance to you and the state in any way possible in making your selection of a suitable location. However, we feel one of these junior colleges should be located near Fort Rucker, not only for our benefit as a contractor but for the benefit of other contractors. For example, Ross Aviation who also has a requirement for technical and academic trained assistance.

I have personally lived in Enterprise since 1955 and assure you this city is very much interested in this project and will devote its time and effort to assist you in any way they can.

If additional information is needed by you in this regard, please advise.

Yours very truly,

HAYES INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION



W. T. NEAL
Division Manager

WIN/ef

Figure A.17. Letter from W. T. Neal to Benjamin A. Forrester, August 12, 1963.⁹⁶⁴

⁹⁶⁴ *Proposal for Junior College Enterprise, Alabama, 42.*

Table A.1. Legislative Acts, Definitions, and Timelines⁹⁶⁵

ACT 673- Legislative Act passed establishing four regional trade schools in Alabama. Approved October 9, 1947.

ACT 402- Legislative Act passed establishing three new trade schools in 1955. These trade schools would operate under the Regional and Vocational Trade School Act of 1947. Approved September 9, 1955.

ACT 888- Legislative Act which established a junior college for Franklin, Marion, or Winston County. This Act established the first public supported junior college in Alabama: Northwest Alabama Junior College. Approved September 8, 1961.

ACT 124- Legislative Act passed allowing counties to establish locally supported junior colleges with a population of not less than 65,000 nor more than 95,000 citizens. Approved on July 16, 1962.

ACT 92- Legislative Act passed to provide funding for the new system of trade schools and junior colleges. The funding would come off a 2 cent tax on beer. Approved May 3, 1963.

ACT 93- Legislative Act passed allowing the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority to manage the revenue created by the beer tax to construct new trade schools and junior colleges. Approved May 3, 1963.

ACT 94- Legislative Act passed placing the governance of the newly established trade schools and junior colleges under the authority of the Alabama State Board of Education. Approved May 3, 1963.

⁹⁶⁵ *Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives*, reg. sess., 1947, 515;
Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives, reg. sess., 1955, 1960-1961;
Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives, reg. sess., 1961, 1397-1403;
Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives, reg. sess., 1962, 159-164;
Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives, reg. sess., 1963, 259;
Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives, reg. sess., 1963, 259-268;
Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives, reg. sess., 1963, 268-270;
Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives, reg. sess., 1961, 1404-1409;
Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives, reg. sess., 1964, 194-199;
Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives, reg. sess., 1964, 218;
Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives, reg. sess., 1965, 1589-1590;
Journal of the Alabama House of Representatives, reg. sess., 1965, 1589-1590.

Table A.1. (continued)

ACT 151-Legislative Act that called for a junior college in DeKalb or Jackson County. No junior college was ever established under this legislation. Approved September 15, 1961.

ACT 590- Legislative Act passed allowing Northwest Alabama Junior College to become the first operational junior college under the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority. Approved September 16, 1963.

ACT 134- Legislative Act passed authorizing an additional \$15,000,000 for the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority. Approved on August 25, 1964.

ACT 153- Legislative Act passed allowing Southern Union College to become the second operational junior college under the Alabama Trade School and Junior College Authority. Approved August 28, 1964

ACT 852- Legislative Act authorizing all junior colleges to name each administration building in honor of Governor George C. Wallace. Gadsden State Community College named their administration building after Lt. Governor James B. Allen. Approved September 2, 1965.

ACT 853- Legislative Act authorizing Gadsden State Community College to name its Fine Arts Building in honor of Governor George C. Wallace. Approved September 2, 1965.

ACT 79-461- Legislative Act that authorized the Commission to allow and approve new educational programs in higher education institutions of learning. Approved 1979.

ACT 82-486- Legislative Act establishing the Alabama Department of Post-Secondary Education. The Department of Post-Secondary Education reported to the newly created position of the Chancellor instead of the State Superintendent of Education. Approved 1982.

Table A.2. ESJC-SGA Presidents, 1965-1990.⁹⁶⁶

*1965-	Mel Magidson
1965-1966	George Landingham
1966-1967	George Landingham
1967-1968	Tommy Baker
1968-1969	Martha White
1969-1970	Paul Dykes
1970-1971	Ken Hooks
1971-1972	Bob Johnson
1972-1973	Larry Spann
1973-1974	Steve Shiver
1974-1975	John Diggs
1975-1976	Paul Spiliotis
1976-1977	Tina Savage
1977-1978	Mike McDaniel
1978-1979	Rick Howard
1979-1980	Stuart Martin
1980-1981	Margaret Hall
1981-1982	Lisa Crowell
1982-1983	Bobby English
1983-1984	Joey Vaughn
1984-1985	Brad English
1985-1986	David Zorn
1986-1987	Jennifer Childree
1987-1988	Jessica Birchfield
1988-1989	Jimmy Mauldin
1989-1990	Pat Hudson
1990-1991	Shannon Helms

*Mel Magidson was appointed SGA President before George Landingham was elected by his peers.

⁹⁶⁶ *ESJC Fact Book*, 77.

See also “Student gov’t being organized by EJC; first dance- tea planned,” *The Enterprise Ledger*, 4 November 1965.

Table A.3. ESJC Alumnus of the Year, 1973-1990.⁹⁶⁷

1973	Tom Bracewell
1974	Winston Brunson
1975	Ronnie Stuckey
1976	Vickie Fields
1977	Paul Dykes
1978	Hugh Weeks
1979	None
1980	None
1981	Dale Marsh
1982	Elayne J. Manning
1983	Pat Howard
1984	Deborah Lane
1985	Dr. David Chalker
1986	Dr. Linda C. Wilson
1987	Frank Clark
1988	Jennifer Nolin
1989	William Carr
1990	Bryant Mixon

⁹⁶⁷ *ESJC Fact Book*, 77.