

Community Colleges--Are There Enough Students?

(This is another in a series of six articles dealing with plans being formulated by the Wayne County Intermediate School District for the eventual formation of Community Colleges in Wayne County.)

By ROBERT WALL

Community colleges develop as urban areas become thickly populated and when an increasing demand from this area for higher learning is present. Not everyone can afford to send their children "away to school." If a student can commute (1 hour maximum driving time) to a school in the area or within a radius of 25 miles, his opportunity for post-high school education increases greatly. That is, your child's chances are better for additional education if a community college is present in such a populated area.

In Wayne County, three such community colleges presently exist: Henry Ford Community College, Highland Park Community College, and Schoolcraft College. However, facilities at all three of these community colleges are presently being strained to the over-crowding point. Many who would further their education are denied an opportunity due to the lack of additional community college campuses in Wayne County.

Dr. Robert Keene's voluminous report on the organization of additional community college districts for Wayne County brings into sharp focus nine areas where potential college enrollment exists. He based his findings on enrollment and census projections using "survival-ratio" percentages to gain as accurate a picture of the future as possible.

These potential community college areas had to conform to two recommended standards: students already in the area (the 18 and 19 year old youth) and students presently in grades 9 through 12 who could become potential college applicants.

How were statistics gathered for Dr. Keene's study? The school census is taken each year in May. Youth from birth to age nineteen are recorded. Records from all 39 districts of the study have been analyzed and the youth ages 18 to 19 listed.

Students enrolled in high school constitute the other large group of individuals for a new community college. Enrollment data from all the high schools of 39 local school districts was gathered and processed.

Predictions to determine the number of potential students who might attend community colleges were based on recommended percentages as established by studies conducted throughout the United States. Only 25 per cent of the actual students in grades 9 through 12 were counted as potential applicants. Only 17 per cent of the community college age youths, as determined by the school census, were used.

A community college must have a minimum number of stu-

dents to assure a curriculum flexible enough to meet students' varied interests. Minimum size for efficient operation was set at 600 students. This figure would allow for an even more diverse curriculum and a more economical operation.

Maximum size for a community college was set at 3,000. Again this potential enrollment figure for community college students could extend to as high as 5,000 full-time students.

Various groupings of school districts, nine areas to be specific, were examined to determine if the potential high school enrollment and the post-high school youth census would meet both minimum and maximum enrollments. If a group of districts did NOT meet both criteria, high school enrollment and the post-high school youth (18 and 19 year olds), the area was considered to have an inadequate "student potential."

Let's look at a specific grouping of districts: Group 4 in Plan A, which combines nine downriver school districts: Trenton, Flat Rock, Carson, Gibraltar, Grosse Ile, Hand, Maple Grove, Riverview and Bates (Woodhaven). How does this downriver group measure up to the standards?

Projected enrollment and number of youth 18 and 19 years of age for the year 1964, 1965 and 1966 are as follows: 227, 288, and 355. College enrollments in this area based on the number of 18 and 19 year olds would not approach the minimum number (300-600) recommended until 1966.

Looking at the potential community college based on students now enrolled in grades 9 through 12, the area does have a sufficient number of students for a separate community college district. However, since the 18 and 19 youth group is below the minimum number until 1966, violation of the establishment criteria rules out the formation of a separate college district. As indicated earlier in our discussion, both potential enrollment from high schools (9-12) and the census figures for the 18 and 19 year old must meet the minimum standards.

Group 4 would not be recommended as a potential community college district.

To add to the rigid financial standards as outlined in Dr. Keene's study, this potential enrollment requirement and the availability of post-high school students seems a bit excessive. Dr. Keene cites a number of studies conducted during the past seven years where close attention was given to the use of a realistic enrollment and census figures. In all cases, careful planning and conservative estimates provided beneficial results and the establishment of the community colleges were on a firm basis.

Throughout this series of articles we have been mentioning groupings of school districts. Next week we will examine three of these groups or areas in greater detail. One of these three suggested combinations

will be selected by the Wayne Education as the official plan organization in Wayne County, structure approval follows and designated districts will have formation of the community college. County Intermediate Board of for community college district State Department of Public In eventually all electors in the an opportunity to vote on the lege district or districts.



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District Kiwanians Assist in Circle K Charter Ceremonies

The new Circle K Club of Schoolcraft College officially received its charter when representatives of the Plymouth, Livonia, Garden City and Livonia Central clubs participated in the installation ceremonies in Plymouth.

The program opened with a prayer by Rev. David Davies followed by an address of welcome by Plymouth Kiwanis President Dr. Jerry Fitch after which Harold Fischer, head of the Schoolcraft Board of Trustees, took over as Master of Ceremonies.

A Kiwanian K-Bitzer was presented by Narrator Robert Uiter and a quartet composed of Harp Stephens, Dr. Fred Foust, Dr. A. E. Van Ornum and Aus Whipple.

Pete Fletcher, Governor of Michigan District of Kiwanis, gave the charge to Circle K.

Dr. Eric Bradner, president of the College, expressed the college board, staff and faculty to the sponsoring Kiwanis Clubs for backing the Circle K.

The Charter was accepted by President Ronald Meyer on behalf of the charter members, who come from all of the five communities in the college district.

The charter was presented by Tom Roberts, chairman of Circle K committee of the Kiwanis Michigan District.

Other presentations were made by the sponsoring clubs and included: the song, by Floyd Woodruff of Livonia Central; the Canadian flag with standard and 10 lapel pins by John Anderson of Livonia Central; American flag with standard and 10 lapel pins by Jerry Coleman of Gar-

den City; club flag and song books by Gene Niles of Plymouth.

Gavel by By Becker of Plymouth; podium by Stewart Oldford Jr. of Plymouth; club stationery, by Max Allen of Plymouth; badge identification by Joseph West of Plymouth; wood containers for club supplies and equipment by Len Wendell of Plymouth.

Special guests were Sixth Division Lt. Governor and Mrs. Walter Gempferline, Sixth Division Lt. Governor-elect and Mrs. Edward Gordon and large delegations from the sponsoring clubs.

The Huron Valley Girl Scout Council will present the Nov. 3 program for the Plymouth Club and Ray Cusato of the Zeeb Corporation will have charge of the program on Nov. 10.

Nursery School Plans Meeting Next Monday
Plymouth Children's Nursery Inc., which operates a nursery school in the old Hough School by lease with the Plymouth Board of Education, will hold a general business meeting on Monday, Nov. 2 at 8 p.m. in the Hough School.

The program will have the theme of "What would be good for nursery school age children?" Mrs. Robert Andrews, 42728 Ford Road, is program chairman.

Toys, books and records for pre-school age children will be provided on a loan basis by Melody House and Betty's Book and Card Store, of Plymouth, and the Kiddie Corner of Ann Arbor.

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