

# SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE: PLANNING SUPERIOR 2-YEAR SCHOOL

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Schoolcraft College will remain a two-year community college rather than become a four-year institution.

Its proportion of vocational-technical students will increase from one-third of the student body to about half.

Whether the college will become a four-year institution or not is still unknown, but one thing is certain: it is a second campus in the district.

One major goal is a cultural center capable of attracting top-flight theater and symphonies--if there is public support.

These points emerged from a conversation with Dr. Eric Bradner, president of the nearly three-year-old community college at 18000 Baggott on Livonia's eastern city limit. Here is what he had to say.

## Two Years Of Quality

Q. Considering Schoolcraft College's present size and anticipated growth, is there any possibility of our becoming a four-year, bachelor's degree-granting institution? What do you think of the possibility?

A. Dr. Bradner: "More people are concerned about this question than anything else. We get it from almost every source. Even at the last community meeting, the speaker mentioned he expected us to become a four-year institution."

"As a matter of fact, we are NOT interested in becoming a four-year institution, either now or later."

"It is our feeling that we're doing an excellent job as a two-year community college. As such, we are able to give quality education to all our students and to the community. Our intent is to stay for this. Our facilities were built with the idea of our being a two-year community college."

"If we go to a four-year college, we're going to have to change our perspective. We're going to change our library, we're going to have to get a different kind of faculty, and many of our very important curricula are going to have to be changed--for example, the technical curricula which direct people into job opportunities such as highway technology, culinary arts, automotive shop."

(Dr. Bradner added that the basis of financial support would have to change, and that Schoolcraft would likely be fourth-rate as a four-year school but can be a first-rate two-year school.)

Q. This is an official position?

A. Dr. Bradner: "We are in line with the best thinking in the state."

"The State Board for Public Junior and Community Education, a subordinate of the State Board of Education, in a recent position paper, indicated these are in absolute opposition to any community college becoming a four-year college."



PRESIDENT ERIC BRADNER SURVEYS CAMPUS

## Q. & A.

"Our own board of trustees has taken the position that they are elected as two-year college board members, and are going to remain that. They're not interested in going into a four-year institution."

## How Many Attending?

Q. Since you opened Schoolcraft College in August of 1964, have your enrollments been up to your anticipations, equal to them or beyond them?

A. Dr. Bradner: "In 1964 we actually enrolled some 1,350 full-time equated students--that is, some 2,000 head count. We had thought we would enroll around 1,100."

"So at the very beginning, we were ahead of ourselves, and this has continued to the present day."

"This year we thought we'd get around 2,300 or 2,400 full-time equated students. Instead we got over 2,600."

"Next year we expect and hope to get not more than 3,000 FTE students, which will mean around 4,000 people. But we're crossing our fingers; it may very well be we'll be forced to take more."

"When we opened, there were a total of five high schools in the district--one in Plymouth, two in Livonia, one in Clarenceville, and one in Garden City."

"Since that time, Northville has been added to the district. Furthermore, there has been growth, not only within each high school, but additional schools--one in Livonia and one in Garden City--for eight public high schools and one parochial, and the possibility in the very near future of several additional ones."

"This will almost double our high school student possibilities."

Q. What percentage of the high school graduating classes of the five member school districts are actually enrolling in Schoolcraft College?

A. Dr. Bradner: "We had about 20 per cent of the 1964 high school graduates coming to Schoolcraft College that fall."

"It has increased. Last year it was over 25 per cent."

"We think this percentage is going to increase--how much, we don't know. Statistically we know it's creeping up toward the 30 per cent mark."

## A Second Campus?

Q. What appears to be the ultimate enrollment that Schoolcraft College will be asked to handle?

A. Dr. Bradner: "I wish I could answer the question at this present time, but I can't."

Schoolcraft College is actually run by the Board of trustees of Northwest Wayne County Community College District. And while Schoolcraft College might remain one site, the district might find itself in a position where it's going to have to establish another campus somewhere."

"We're trying to find out the answers."

"The board of trustees has recently engaged Dr. Eric Bradner, professor emeritus and con-

sultant in demography at Michigan State University, to run a population study of the college district--the five member districts of Northville, Plymouth, Clarenceville, Livonia and Garden City."

## Academic vs. Technical

Q. In the past, you've had a breakdown of the student body of two-thirds in academic programs and one-third toward vocational or career programs. Will this continue?

A. Dr. Bradner: "We expect a change toward the career or vocationally-oriented, because of the fact that we have just opened our new technical center."

"This coming year, we expect it will begin to fill up, and it looks to us as though we will gradually approach a 50-50 ratio between academic and the technical. This we hope to maintain in the future."

"We can guess. But Dr. Thaden is a world-known consultant on this, and he's going into it on a scientific basis. Hopefully, by next October, we'll know not only how many people will be living in the district, but where they will be living, and what their ages will be."

"With this information, the board of trustees will then be in a position to take the next steps--which will be to determine whether to enlarge our present campus, or whether we will have to go to a second campus, a different type of program or perhaps another program identical to what we have."

## Expansion Plans

Q. What construction programs are going on or being planned to prepare for the influx of students?

A. Dr. Bradner: "We found out that this year we are just about at the limit within the hours 8 to 5. So last year our board decided they'd have to take immediate steps to build additional classrooms."

"As a result, we have under construction now a classroom building that will give us some 22 additional classrooms, little theater and faculty offices. This will not be finished until a year from next September."

"We are also completed the plans for a physical education facility, which is something we have needed ever since we opened. Presently, our physical education work is being done at Northville State Hospital, and it just isn't satisfactory. It's for men only, and we need it for men and women, and it can only accommodate a small percentage of our student body."

"This will be completed as soon as the classroom building, if we can get started right away."

"I'm particularly interested in having you know of the plans in the not-too-distant future for a Cultural Center, where the people of the community might come for their own artistic enhancement--where they might learn the dance,

where they might listen to Broadway plays, where they might hear the full New York Philharmonic."

"We are concerned with getting this program under way as quickly as possible. The newly-formed Schoolcraft College Foundation has been working on ways and means to gather funds to provide a base whereby we might build this facility."

"We have the ground. It's right next to our north parking lot."

## Financial Sources...

Q. Where do funds come from to run Schoolcraft College and to put up the new buildings?

A. Dr. Bradner: "I, as a resident of Livonia, am very aware of where some of the funds come from. I get a tax bill, and on this tax bill I am informed that 1.77 mills goes to the support of Schoolcraft College. This amount is collected equally across the whole college district."

"Now 0.77 mill is for capital expenditures, and the one mill is used for operating funds--to pay the faculty, to buy the supplies."

"But this doesn't build us all the buildings."

"We frequently have two additional sources of funds--the federal and state governments. They have supplied us 50 per cent of our building costs."

"We get money to operate from two additional sources. The students pay tuition--\$8 a semester for students who are residents of the district and \$12 for those who are not--and a total for residents of approximately \$225 a year."

"The state has been paying \$225 per student for academic students and \$350 if he is a technical student."

## ...And The Foundation

Q. How does the foundation enter the picture?

A. Dr. Bradner: "The Schoolcraft College Foundation has recently been organized by a group of citizens who are interested in the college."

"It's designed to gather funds, to interest people in the college in planning for the future. It's organized under a number of committees--capital additions, scholarships, publicity, membership, and steering."

"This foundation has the goal of the accumulation of approximately a million dollars for capital expenditures and also the gathering of around \$25,000 for student aids."

"The foundation has a membership campaign starting now."

"So when any of your readers are approached to join the Schoolcraft College Foundation, we hope that they will lend a willing and gracious ear."



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