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The First Twenty Five Years: Highlights in the Development of Des Moines Area Community College

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The First Twenty-Five Years

Highlights in the Development of Des Moines Area Community College
INTRODUCTION

In its first twenty-five years, Des Moines Area Community College has grown from its initial status as a fledgling institution with 28 students enrolled in four career programs, to become a mature community college enrolling over 11,000 credit students and providing educational services to over 75,000 persons annually. The vision and commitment of a great many people have enabled this transition to take place, and have resulted in the College becoming recognized as a leader nationally as well as within the state.

This publication briefly identifies chronologically some of the major events which have contributed to the College's development. It is not intended as a comprehensive list - such an undertaking would be massive indeed! Many decisions as to whether to include or exclude a particular event had to be made. The writer assumes responsibility for those judgments, recognizing that others may have made different decisions.

Primary documents which were used in development of this publication included

Minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors
Annual Reports prepared by the College staff
Annual Progress Reports submitted to the Iowa Department of Education
Institutional Self-Study Reports submitted to the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and the
Institutional Data Book.

Leonard Bengtson
1966
- In March, the State Board of Public Instruction approved establishment of the College, and designated its district as Merged Area XI.
- Members of the first Board of Directors were elected in May and assumed their duties in a first meeting held on May 23rd.
- Paul Lowery assumed duties as the College's first superintendent in August.
- The College's first instructional site, at 2501 Vine Street in West Des Moines, was leased and remodeling was begun.
- A comprehensive occupational needs survey was initiated to provide information for development of vocational programs.

1967
- In February, the first 28 students of Area XI Community College began classes in Center I, 2501 Vine Street, West Des Moines. The programs offered were Industrial Electronics, Electrical Drafting, Medical Assistant, and Secretarial/Clerical.
- The Ankeny Campus site (240 acres) was purchased in August.
- In September, classes were begun in Center II, a former roller rink at 2020 Grand, West Des Moines. A total of 295 students were enrolled in 15 programs at Centers I and II.
- The Des Moines Comprehensive Vocational Facility (MDTA Skill Center), located on Bell Avenue in Des Moines, became a part of Area XI Community College in December.

1968
- Construction of the first five phasing-campus buildings was begun on the Ankeny Campus.
- For fall quarter, in addition to Centers I and II, selected programs, primarily in marketing, were located in leased space in the Ankeny Methodist Church.
- The Board of Directors officially changed the name of the College to Des Moines Area Community College.

1969
- In February, students and administrative personnel were moved from temporary facilities in Ankeny to the new phasing campus buildings on the Ankeny Campus.
- Boone Junior College officially became the Boone Campus of Des Moines Area Community College.
- The Bayard Community School District was added to the Des Moines Area Community College District.
• A total of 1,798 students were enrolled in credit courses for the fall quarter.

1970
• Two additional buildings (#6 and #7) on the Ankeny Campus phasing campus were completed and occupied.

• Carroll and Audubon counties officially became a part of the Des Moines Area Community College District.

• In October, the first two permanent buildings on the Ankeny Campus, Industrial Manufacturing and Health Services, were completed and occupied. Center II in West Des Moines was vacated. The Data Processing building on the Ankeny Campus was completed in December.

1971
• The Library/Media Center and Food Services buildings on the Ankeny Campus were completed.

• Fall quarter enrollment in credit programs reached a new high of 2,801.

• The Des Moines School of Practical Nursing was moved to the Ankeny Campus, to be housed in the Health Sciences building.

1972
• In February, the Urban Center for Higher Education was established at 8th and Washington, Des Moines. In August, the Center moved to facilities at 920 Washington (formerly Dowling High School).

• An addition to the Data Processing building on the Ankeny Campus was completed and occupied by fall quarter classes. Center I on Vine Street in West Des Moines was closed, with the remaining programs there transferred to the Ankeny Campus.

• An additional approximately 80 acres of land lying just west of the present Ankeny Campus was purchased, expanding the total campus to nearly 320 acres.

1973
• Construction was begun on the Public Services Careers building, an addition to the Health Sciences building, and a Central Utilities building on the Ankeny Campus.

• Fall term enrollment of credit students totalled 3,888 students, continuing the College's rapid growth.

1974
• DMACC was awarded full accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools for a five-year period.

• The Urban Center moved to 5th and College, the former Sabin Elementary School.

• DMACC received a major Advanced Institutional Development Project (AIDP) grant for the purpose of enhancing the management of the College and improving programs for students.
1975  • Fall term enrollment of credit students increased from 4,226 in 1974 to 5,243 in 1975, an increase of 1,017 students, or 24%.

• Construction was begun on the Physical Plant building (now Bldg. 12) on the Ankeny Campus.

• The DMACC Foundation held its first annual fund drive, which resulted in contributions totalling $43,000 to be used for student scholarships and loans.

1976  • The first Collective Bargaining Agreement between the faculty and the Board of Directors was implemented in accordance with provisions of the Iowa Public Employment Relations Act.

• Student registration via telephone was instituted as an extension of existing registration procedures to improve convenience for students.

• The Mobile Career Exploration program served a total of 2,687 students in 27 area high schools.

1977  • Because of reduced CETA funding, the MDTA/CETA Skill Center ceased to operate. Several of the instructional programs were moved to the Ankeny or Urban campuses and the others were discontinued.

• The College celebrated its first ten years of operation with an extensive public relations campaign which culminated in a Tenth Anniversary Birthday Party Open House in October on the Ankeny Campus attended by overflow crowds.

1978  • After extensive discussion and consideration of many possibilities, the Board of Directors approved an agreement with the City of Des Moines to acquire approximately six acres of land on Seventh Street just north of I-235 as a site for an Urban Campus.

• An elevator was installed and a variety of other changes made at the Boone Campus to improve accessibility for the handicapped.

1979  • Construction was begun on a new 30,000 sq. ft. Urban Campus facility.

• The new Automotive building was completed on the Ankeny Campus.

• A Western Attendance Center was established at Carroll in rented facilities at 229 North Main Street.

• DMACC was awarded a continuation of full NCA accreditation for seven years, with a focused visit scheduled in three years to assess the College's efforts to improve student access and choice.

1980  • The new Urban Campus facility was completed. All programs and staff were moved from the old site at Fifth and College.
• Implementation of a position evaluation system for all non-faculty positions at the College was completed.

1981
• Dr. Joseph A. Borgen was installed as the College's second president in September.

• The new Administrative building on the Ankeny Campus was completed in December.

• The College implemented its own computer system for all administrative services with the installation of the IBM 4341 on the Ankeny Campus. Prior to this time, the College utilized the services of the Mid-Iowa Computer Center in Des Moines.

1982
• The Student Center building (Bldg. 5) was completed, and also a new greenhouse and classroom/lab facility for the Commercial Horticulture program. Landscaping also added significantly to the attractiveness of the campus.

• A comprehensive revision of the organizational structure was implemented.

• The first ASEP training agreement with General Motors Corporation was approved.

• The College cooperated with the Mayor's Task Force on Retraining in the implementation of special training programs for workers displaced by plant closings. Involved were seven different programs and a total of over 300 students.

• A Computer Science program was established on the Urban Campus.

• The College Wellness Program was initiated.

• A women's internship program for DMACC was established, and the College also participated in the "Leaders for the 80's" project sponsored by Maricopa Community College.

• A second central processor was installed in the mainframe computer, and support for all computer instruction was transferred from the outdated IBM 360 to the mainframe system.

1983
• Effective fall term, the transition from a quarter to semester schedule was accomplished with essentially no inconvenience to students. As a part of this transition, all curricula were re-examined, revised and updated, with special emphasis on accessibility to part-time students. Advisory committees were extensively involved in the process.

• The Strategic Planning Task Force developed the report. "Statement of Future Expectations for Des Moines Area Community College", identifying proposed directions for the College, particularly in relation
to technological change. The report was adopted by the Board of Directors.

- The Food Services building was remodeled to create the Conference Center.

- A computerized energy management system was installed on the Ankeny Campus, and installation of a new computer-based inventory system was completed.

- Extensive research was conducted concerning instructional needs in the western part of our area and the possibilities for a permanent facility in Carroll.

- The College contracted with the Arthur Andersen Co., for an audit of data processing and internal accounting controls as well as an analysis of possible approaches to generating tuition income and providing state financial support.

- A major revision of the entire tuition and fee structure was accomplished, including establishment of the principle of a standard charge for each unit of educational services received (removal of the traditional tuition "lid" for full-time students).

- After extensive study, a self-funded benefits program for the College was instituted. A Benefits Committee was established to maintain an ongoing review of our benefits package and recommend cost containment measures.

- Dental insurance became a part of the College's fringe benefit package.

- A 26-pay-per-year payroll system was instituted, and the option of direct payroll deposit was offered to employees for the first time.

- The personnel records system was extended to include permanent records on part-time faculty.

- The first contract for the new classified staff collective bargaining unit was negotiated.

- The first HF623 project, with Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., was implemented.

- The Guardian system for control of computer access was installed to assure security of student and financial data on the computer.

1984

- A ten-year extension of the capital improvement levy was approved, assuring funds for vital upgrading of instructional equipment as well as construction of needed new facilities.

- A model automated office involving the latest office technologies and equipment was installed on the Ankeny Campus.
Remodeling of Bldg. 6, including replacement of the Randtriever with open stacks, was completed, as well as remodeling of Bldg. 16, for relocation of the Commercial Art program.

The Economic Development Group was established in July, 1984. In its first year of operation, training was provided to over 11,000 individuals.

A new employee evaluation system for all non-faculty staff was implemented.

All personnel policies were rewritten and approved by legal counsel for the College. The Affirmative Action plan was completely re-examined and revised.

An early retirement program for administrative/professional staff was implemented.

A communications link between the mainframe computer and the CPT in the Word Processing Center made it possible to transfer course data to print directly from computer files, resulting in both a saving of time and increased accuracy.

The new south entrance to the Ankeny Campus, together with the dam and spillway, were completed, as well as the widening of the remainder of the main perimeter street to four lanes.

Japan Week, a major international education project unique among community colleges in the country, was planned and conducted with outstanding success.

Computer-Aided-Design (CAD) and Computer-Aided-Manufacturing (CAM) equipment was purchased for use by students in the Drafting, Tool and Die Making, and Commercial Art programs. Instructors received the necessary technical updating and curricula were modified to utilize these new technologies.

The College instituted use of the ASSET tests from ACT to assess the academic abilities of new full-time students, identify needs for developmental course work, and provide guidance to students in course selection.

Through the Curriculum Commission, a new course designation system for all credit courses was developed, and requirements for all degrees and the diploma were restructured.

A new comprehensive institutional policy in relation to standards for academic progress was developed, to comply with new federal financial aid regulations.

Data on faculty certification status was computerized for the first time, providing much-improved monitoring capabilities.
• An academic program evaluation system was designed and implemented.

• The Golden Circle Center for Business Development was established on the Ankeny Campus.

• Extensive programming was completed to permit implementation of a scheduling system which integrates a district-wide room file, a district file of full-time and part-time teaching staff, the master course/curriculum file, and the payroll system.

• An electronic mail system was implemented, accessible to all campuses.

• An automated transcripting system was implemented, eliminating time-consuming manual updating of permanent record cards and enabling appropriate staff on all campuses to request copies of student transcripts via CRT.

• Computerized record-keeping systems for the Alumni Office and DMACC Foundation were established.

• Broadcast-quality video production equipment was purchased to permit the development of quality video presentations. Over 200 pieces of classroom media equipment were also purchased to upgrade both the quality and quantity of media equipment available to classroom instructors.

• A comprehensive marketing study was conducted. The Marketing Commission was established to monitor and provide input into the College's ongoing marketing efforts.

• Since 1982, the number of microcomputers to which students have instructional access has increased from fewer than 25 to nearly 300. Over 150 staff members have participated in structured courses and seminars to develop their skills in computer utilization.

1986

• A system for instructional accomplishment center accounting was developed and implemented for credit programs, with the resultant information becoming a part of the program evaluation system. It will be extended to non-credit areas.

• Following the success of Japan Week in 1985, the College hosted its second major international education event, China Week, in April, 1986.

• The NCA Self-Study and team visitation resulted in the College receiving the maximum extension, ten years, of its accreditation status.

• The new Carroll Campus facility was officially dedicated on July 21, 1986.

• The FARMCAP program was developed and implemented, with almost 200 agricultural workers and their spouses participating in career assessment and planning activities in a series of workshops throughout
the area. This highly successful program is now being made available to other colleges.

- As a result of the Greyhound project, DMACC received one of three national awards presented by AACJC in its "Excellence in Partnership" competition. The College also shared in the other two awards (the ASEP project with General Motors and the Northwestern Bell project). No other community college received this level of recognition for its work with business and industry.

- The College received funding through the U.S. Information Agency for a three-year international exchange of faculty/staff members with a Japanese university. Involved will be nine staff members from DMACC and seven from the Japanese university. DMACC is one of only two community colleges in the country to receive such funding.

1987

- The College experienced significant enrollment growth on all campuses in FY 1987. Student enrollment in credit courses increased by 12.9%, and total contact hours eligible for state aid increased by 8.9%.

- With the opening of the new Carroll Campus facility in the fall of 1986, headcount enrollment in credit courses on that campus increased by 49% in FY 1987 and total contact hours eligible for state aid increased by 113%.

- The new 38,000 sq. ft. Technical Center was completed on schedule and occupied with the opening of fall semester classes. A total of 340 additional parking spaces were also added on the Ankeny Campus.

- Remodeling at the Boone Campus was completed, providing an enlarged learning center and four additional classrooms.

- Construction was begun on a 30,126 sq. ft. addition to the Urban Campus, with completion scheduled to permit occupancy for fall semester, 1988.

- A student housing plan for the Ankeny Campus was approved and a developer selected. Construction, planned to begin in the fall of 1987, will be delayed approximately one year because of delays in sewer system expansion.

- The College held its third annual major international education event, Mexico Week, in April, 1987.

- A contract has been negotiated with the University of Illinois for DMACC to be the sole agent for NovaNET services in Iowa, providing computer access to some 150,000 hours of educational materials which have been developed for this system.

- Under Project Career Paths, articulation agreements have been developed with eight high schools in the area (four with fewer than 500 students in grades 9-12 and four with more than 500) for the
development of model articulation agreements in four areas - Business Occupations, Health, Academic Advanced Placement, and Technical Preparation. These model agreements will become the basis for expansion of services to other high schools in the future. In addition, special articulation efforts have been initiated with the Des Moines Public School's Central Campus and Carroll High School.

- The U.S. Information Agency-funded faculty exchange program between DMACC and Yamanashi Gakuin University in Kofu, Japan, has been in full operation in FY 1987. Four DMACC faculty members have participated or are participating in the exchange, spending a semester at Yamanashi Gakuin University, and three faculty members from Japan have been, or are, at DMACC for a semester. Reactions to the exchange program have been extremely positive.

- Twelve tenants currently occupy space in the Golden Circle Center incubator facilities. Remodeling of buildings #15, #16, #17, #18, and #19 was completed in October, permitting additional tenants to be accommodated. A $400,000 Economic Development Act grant was received to finance this remodeling.

- Since the first H.F. 623 training project was approved in 1983, projects have been approved by the Board of Directors involving 53 firms, a total of 4,107 new jobs, and $14,463,000 in certificates. Currently, preliminary agreements have been signed with another 48 firms, involving 2,271 additional jobs, and certificates totalling in excess of $7,000,000. In addition, the Economic Development Group has been involved in private training contracts affecting another 4,093 jobs.

1988

- The Urban Campus addition was completed and occupied with the beginning of fall semester. This 30,000 sq. ft. addition approximately doubles the size of the Urban facility.

- The focused visit by an NCA review team in November resulted in a very favorable report concerning the College. The self-study report developed by the College in preparation for the visit has been cited by the NCA as a model for other colleges.

- The first rural business incubator in the state, Circle West Incubator, was established. With the administrative center in Audubon, the Incubator serves communities in a seven county area in the western part of the DMACC district.

- The Transportation Institute was created, providing opportunities for inexperienced commercial vehicle drivers to become professional operators with a sponsoring transportation company through a 320-hour industry-approved training program. Also, the Office Institute was established to assist in meeting the local need for entry-level clerical workers.

- Recommendations for improving the College's services to four special populations, women, minorities, the handicapped, and older adults,
were developed by four special task forces. The publication, "Improving Services to Special Target Populations", resulted from these efforts.

1989

• Installation of the CIM (Computer Integrated Manufacturing) Cell in the Technology building was completed, and CIM instructional courses were offered beginning fall semester.

• Student housing for 200 students (50 units for four students each) on the Ankeny Campus was completed and fully occupied for fall semester.

• A special DMACC 2000 Task Force completed and published a strategic report, "Passport to the Future: Creating a Learner-Centered Climate at DMACC", which included ten major recommendations to enhance the College's capacity to effectively meet the needs of students in the future.

• An Assessment Center was established on the Ankeny Campus to serve both current and prospective students with admissions ASSET testing, CLEP testing, and other tests used for counseling, academic advising and career planning.

• The Office of Minority Affairs was established to expand and improve services to minority students and prospective students.

• Landscaping of the south entrance to the Ankeny Campus was completed.

1990

• DMACC was selected as one of only 40 colleges nationwide to participate in the Ford Motor Company's ASSET automotive technician training program. The College, therefore, becomes one of the very few community colleges nationwide to establish cooperative training programs with both Ford and General Motors. DMACC also provides technical training for Chrysler Corporation dealerships.

• Central administration offices were relocated to Bldg. 20 to permit expanding counseling/advising services to students and prospective students in Bldg. 1.

• Community Education Centers were established in Newton and Indianola to expand access to educational services in these communities. Enrollment has exceeded expectations in both Centers.

• A Mobile Training Center designed to provide on-site training for businesses, industries or schools throughout the College district became a reality as a result of a special grant from Amoco Corporation. The unit is outfitted with 14 computers, and initial demand for its services has been heavy.

• The Golden Circle Business Center incubator was ranked among the top 15% of such installations in the nation as a result of an independent evaluation.
• Local area computer networks (LAN's) were established on the Boone Campus and in the Business & Management building on the Ankeny Campus as initial steps in providing greatly expanded access to computers by students and staff members. Approximately 200 microcomputers are now included in these LAN's.

• A new voice mail system became operational on the Ankeny Campus.

1991 • The DMACC Automotive Technology department was awarded the American Vocational Association/Motor Vehicle Manufacturers' Association 1990 National Award for Excellence in Automotive Service Programs, recognizing the program as best in the nation among post-secondary institutions.

• Construction was begun on a six-classroom expansion for the Carroll Campus.

• On the Ankeny Campus, construction of the International House is nearing completion and work is underway on the Central Administration complex.

• Remodeling of buildings #1 and #5 on the Ankeny Campus was completed, providing significantly expanded snack bar space and study area for students as well as more convenient access to support services for both currently enrolled and prospective students.

• From the original 28 students enrolled almost 25 years ago, credit student enrollment has grown to a total of 11,040 for the fall semester. In FY 1991, a total of 78,330 were enrolled in either credit or non-credit courses offered by the College. Both of these figures are new all-time records. In the face of fiscal restraints, the College's enrollment continues to increase - strong evidence that DMACC is meeting the needs of the communities and individuals it seeks to serve.