Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

July 1, 2014 will mark the 50th anniversary of the first meeting and organization of the Board of Trustees for the Riverside Junior College District. Prior to July 1, 1964 the Riverside City Junior College District was under the auspices of the Riverside City Board of Education (along with the city high schools, junior high schools and elementary schools). In the spring of 1963 State Senator Lee Backstrand and Assemblyman Gordon Cologne, both representing Riverside county districts, co-sponsored Senate Bill 1152, and it became law on July 13, 1963. The bill provided for the election of an independent five-member junior college board of trustees between March 30 and June 15, 1964. After a lively campaign, the five-person governing board was elected on June 2, 1964 and the Riverside Junior College District, as an independent entity, became a reality. The photo (below) of the board appeared in the 1966 “Tequesquite” yearbook. The caption read:

“MAJOR DECISIONS which affect Riverside City College must be made by the district board of trustees, a group of five distinguished men and women who are elected by the taxpayers of the district. It is the group pictured below which has spearheaded the construction of the new additions to RCC which will be ready in the next few years. The board recognizes that the fullest possible development of each individual’s abilities is essential to the welfare of the community and has defined these objectives to accomplish four purposes: (1.) occupational-technical education; (2.) general education to serve all students; (3.) college transfer education for all those who will go on to higher training; (4.) community service to meet the needs of all the people in the community. Besides President Bradshaw (top row, middle below), the legislators who govern RCC are: (bottom row, from left to right) Joseph Aguilar, Mrs. Carolyn Diffenbaugh, Allen Pauw. Top: Dr. Wilfred Airey, President Bradshaw, Albert C. Brown. Mrs. Diffenbaugh graduated from Bennington College and has lived in Riverside since 1949. Joseph Aguilar, a native of Riverside, graduated from RCC and UCR. He presently teaches at Corona High School. Dr. Allen Pauw has a doctor’s degree from USC, came here from Michigan. Albert Brown is a former student body president at RCC, has lived here since 1924. Dr. Wilfred Airey, a professor of history at La Sierra College, has been a Riverside resident since 1924.”

As stated in the caption, both Brown and Aguilar were graduates of RCC. Brown (below left) graduated in 1939 and Aguilar (below right) in 1955.
All five members of RCC’s original Board of Trustees are recognized by the District by having various locations and buildings named after them.

In the Evans Sports complex, on the RCC campus, the Softball / Fastpitch field is named after Albert (Ab) Brown (Board member 1964-1978).

Joseph P. Aguilar (Board member 1964-1979) has the Aguilar Patio on the RCC campus dedicated to him.

Carolyn Diffenbaugh (Board member and first Board President 1964-1970) was also a member of the Riverside Unified Board of Education from 1959 to 1964.
The Tower Clock on the RCC campus was presented to the College in her honor.

Of the original RCCD board members, Wilfred Airey (below left) and Allen Pauw (below right) had the longest tenures. Airey served from 1964 to 1990 and Pauw from 1964 to 1992. Both have buildings named after them.
The Wilfred J. Airey Library on the campus of Norco College was named in his honor during Norco’s 1992 Convocation.

The Allen D. Pauw Business Education Center on the RCC campus was named in his honor in 1996.

It is 1 year and 40 weeks until RCC’s 100th Anniversary on March 13, 2016.

The Riverside City College Instructional Media Center is bringing you this five year countdown to RCC’s 100th Anniversary. Our intention is to give everyone a weekly glance at the many people and events that have been a part of the college.
Our thanks go to the RCC Digital Library Archives and the District’s Office of Strategic Communications and Relations for allowing us to use their photo and newspaper collections. Thanks as well to all of the RCC students and Faculty Advisors that were a part of the yearbook and newspaper staffs. Thanks also to Tom Johnson and Gilbert Jimenez who wrote “the book” about RCC’s history. “Riverside City College 1916-1981- A 65 Year History” is available in the RCC Digital Library.

For copyright purposes, all images originating from Riverside City College publications and the District’s Office of Strategic Communications and Relations are the property of the Riverside Community College District.