Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

Continuing this summer’s “Countdown” looks at stories appearing in “Riverside City College Reports”, is this overview of Volume 3, Number 2 from December 11, 1967. The lead story gave a report on the Citizens Advisory Committee. The group first met on June 7, 1967 to begin studying the present and future needs of the Riverside Junior College District. Among the highlights of the group’s recommendations were:

“EXPANSION: The present campus should be bounded by the Tequesquite Arroyo, Olivewood Avenue, Ramona Drive, and Magnolia Avenue. Tequesquite and Riverside Avenues should be closed through the campus. Maximum enrollment at the present site should be held at 5,000 and a new college on the second site should be ready for occupancy when an enrollment of 1,500 can be anticipated, perhaps by 1973.”

“COMMUNITY SERVICES: The college should develop community leadership seminars, child day-care centers, and police community relations short courses. Some college programs should be offered in neighborhood centers. A continuing committee should be constituted to advise on community services.”

“INNOVATIONS: A faculty committee on innovations should be established, and ultimately a full-time administrator given responsibility in this area. A learning resource center should be developed, and an innovative research library established. The second campus should be designated an experimental junior college.”

“CURRICULUM: The college should continue to seek articulation agreements with four-year institutions. The faculty should be granted leave with pay for professional education. RCC should do what it can do to get the four-year colleges to re-define lower division courses so that it can broaden its transfer offerings.”

“GUIDANCE: Local industry should be formed of vocational offerings of the college. Student-counselor rations should be reduced to the state average of 1 counselor to 513 students. (The RCC average: 1 to 611.) A professional career and advisory committee should be constituted to serve as a liaison between the college and business and industry.”

“REMEDIAL: Guidance services should be expanded to meet the needs of undeclared students. Work-study programs should be expanded. Special programs should be developed for high school dropouts. A scholarship program should be directed at the high school under-achiever.”

“VOCATIONAL: Certificate programs should be expanded. A full-time vocational counselor should be employed. Vocational education coordinators should be added to the unified district staffs.”

“Almost every committee stressed the need for an intensified program of public relations to inform the community about the programs available at Riverside City College.”

In “The President’s Corner”, President Ralph Bradshaw (RCC President 1963-1972) spoke of the Community Advisory Committee. He wrote:

“The members were selected last spring to represent a wide range of community interests. They were not presented with a particular problem, nor were they asked to be concerned with finance in any way. They were simply given some background in formation and invited to ‘assist the Board and college staff to gain perspective and direction in planning the future development of the services and facilities of the college district.’ They organized themselves into study groups, selected their own study topics, and spent six months considering various aspects of the college and
preparing their recommendations. These recommendations now go to the college faculty, administration, and Board of Trustees for study. Even if some of them prove to be impractical or beyond our present means, the recommendations constitute a valuable resource for the continuing development of this college and this district. We acknowledge a debt of gratitude to the Community College Advisory Committee.”

Page three featured a story on new course offerings at RCC. A new Dental Technology program was introduced. The article described this program and others:

“DENTAL TECHNOLOGY: The program will include four basic semester courses, with each a prerequisite for the next course. Classes will meet daily for four hours in the especially designed laboratory which has been incorporated in the new Life Science Building. The curriculum was developed in consultation with representatives of Loma Linda University, the Tri-county Dental Association, the California Department of Employment, the Southern California State Dental Laboratory Society and the Tri-County Dental Laboratory Society.”

“NEW ELECTRONICS COURSES: With authorization of two new courses, Basic Television and Servicing Semiconductor Equipment, Trustees have now completed approval of a one-year certificate program leading to employment in businesses concerned with the repair of radio, television, tape recorders, record players, and other home entertainment devices.”

“MODERN FOOD SERVICES: Modern Food Service is the descriptive title of a new course to be offered by the Home Economics Department under the Extended Day program in the spring semester. The course is designed to help workers employed by caterers in restaurants, convalescent homes, hospitals and industrial plants, and it is expected also to be of value to the hostess in the home. Students will be concerned with the purchase of foods, their preparation, and the serving of food. Also considered will be table appointments, etiquette, and social usage, as well as the development of menus for special occasions.”

“QUALITY CONTROL: Methods for controlling the products manufactured by industrial concerns will be studied in a new course, Elements of Quality Control, which will be offered in the spring semester. It is one of the two specialized courses in the production option in the certificate program in Industrial Middle Management. The full program in Industrial middle Management also provides options, or majors, in administration and in technology, as well as a number of required courses common to all areas of specialization.”

“AID FOR TEACHERS: Aid for teacher aides will be provided by a new non-credit course to be offered in the spring semester under the Extended Day program. Appropriately titled Preparation for Teacher's Aides, the new class is designed to prepare students who plan to work as volunteers or paid aids in elementary schools. Students will
examine the role of the non-certificated person in the school, school law, school district policies, non-teaching tasks 
supporting classroom operation, tutoring techniques, operation of audio-visual equipment, and basic school 
supplies."

Page four reported on the passing of Earl Seeber (Counselor 1963-1967). The article told of his life before starting at RCC:

“After seeing combat in Italy during World War II, Mr. Seeber established a successful business in Phoenix, Arizona, 
which he left when he found it was not bringing him what he wanted in life. He then entered Phoenix College and 
earned three degrees in four years – the Associate in Arts degree at Phoenix and the Bachelor of Arts and Master of 
Arts at the University of Arizona. Later he earned the Ed.S., Specialist in Education, a certification granted by the 
University of Arizona. Mr. Seeber began his teaching career with the U.S. Indian Service and he taught or served as 
counselor in a number of high schools in Southern California before coming to RCC.”

It is 1 year and 33 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.
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