August 18, 2014

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 4, Number 2 from December 30, 1968. Ralph Bradshaw (RCC President 1963-1972) had the recommendations of the Citizen’s Advisory Committee on his mind. He wrote:

“During the past year faculty and administrative committees have reviewed these recommendations and, with support from the Board of Trustees, we have found ways of putting 46 of them into operation, completely or partially, according to resources available. Among these are a number relating to curriculum and instruction, such as expansion of vocational programs, greater effort to inform the public of college offerings, and increased support for faculty study leaves and curriculum revision. Student services have been improved through additional work-study funds, a much larger summer opportunity program, and some improvement in the counseling ratio. What we have been able to do so far has been limited to a large extent by the resources presently available. Like that of most educational institutions, our district faces expanding enrollments, rising costs, and an increased demand for services. It is already clear that we must find additional sources of support to meet the needs of the next several years. The special Citizens Committee which was formed this month has begun a study of our financial needs and ways of meeting them. We hope to present the results of their study in the spring issues of R.C.C. Reports.”

The headline article spoke of some of the findings of the Finance Review Committee:

“Cost of construction projects included in a tentative 10-year plan submitted to the state is estimated to be $37,746,000. Of this, $23,098,000 might be secured from state and federal sources, to which would have to be matched $14,648,000 in local money. Although he recognizes the need for a long-range view, Supt. R. H. Bradshaw has suggested limiting implementation of the program to the four-year period. He feels there are too many variables to permit accurate predictions for a longer span than this. For one thing, the four-year period would permit the completion of projects for the City College campus and the construction, although not the actual operation, of the initial unit of the Arlington area campus. Four years may also have resolved the issue of whether or not Corona, Perris, or Elsinore will be added to the present Riverside Junior College District. Furthermore, Supt. Bradshaw points Out, limited planning would permit public review of the college’s performance before additional funds are authorized for later years. One particularly notable departure in Supt. Bradshaw’s recommendations to the advisory committee is that costs of major equipment no longer be financed out of the annual operating budget but be included in the same capital outlay budget as construction costs and financed in the same way — either through bonds or special tax levies.”

An RCC sponsored Employment program was profiled on page two. The story read:
“The Trustees have put a stamp of approval on the adoption of the Inland Employability Training Program as a college financed program for 20 weeks. The action extends the Jan. 3 termination date to May 26. The newly adopted program is the outgrowth of the Inland Empire Training Program established to improve the employability of people who were jobless or under-employed due to educational deficiencies. An area wide program, the original project involved six junior colleges, and accepted referrals from the Department of Employment’s Youth Opportunity Center and the Department of Welfare. The “new” IETP offers non-credit courses to anyone interested in learning a skill or in upgrading skills. As a completely college sponsored program, IETP will be able to accept students referred from a number of agencies. The Riverside Office of Employment predicts that it will refer more than 400 students to the program through its Work Incentive Program by April 1969, with a possible doubling of that number by the 1970 fiscal year and continued expansion in 1972 to 1000 referrals. The modified program will maintain the core of the original Inland Empire Training Program, including basic communications, behavioral and personal development, computations, and multi-occupational skills orientation. Additional courses will be added to and/or dropped from the curriculum as needed in order to offer flexible career training in specific jobs which will include instruction in related job skills. Since the original program was started two courses, auto mechanics and groundsman/gardener, have been terminated. Under the Manpower Development Training Act two additional courses have been added. They are tire recapping for which the program leases Les Magnuson’s Tire Service, and small engines which is taught in a leased building on Cridge Street.”

Page three had an extensive article on the retirement of Mary Wallace (Counselor, Dean of Women/Students, Dean of Instruction 1954-1968). It read, in part:

“The college’s most versatile staff member closed her office door for the last time Nov. 22, and her retirement has taken from the administrative staff one of its most distinctive personalities. Mary Wallace has left her position as dean of instruction to accompany her husband Bill, who retired last spring from his position with the California Edison Company, in pursuit of their mutual interests in Southwestern travel and Indian archaeology. Administrative Dean John Ohmen will also serve as acting dean of instruction until the position can be filled, presumably next summer or fall. Mrs. Wallace came to the college in 1954, serving first as a counselor and special assistant to the then Frances Fraser, dean of women. Subsequently she was named dean of women, dean of students, and finally dean of instruction. Many changes have taken place at Riverside City College since she joined the faculty, Mrs. Wallace notes. Most conspicuous, of course, is the expansion of the physical plant, especially the construction of the new buildings on the former Poly promontory. There are other even more fundamental changes. Chief among these, Mrs. Wallace feels, is a marked trend toward innovation in teaching. This she attributes to the great desire of faculty members to become aware of how learning occurs and to become familiar with the host of mechanical and
electronic aids to learning that is now becoming available. More and more, Mrs. Wallace says, instructors are studying their disciplines in the light of behavioral objectives toward which they can contribute. One factor which has contributed significantly to this professional growth has been the participation by the tenured faculty in the evaluation of probationary teachers. Not only has the veteran’s experience proved invaluable to the neophyte, but the new ideas which the beginner brings to his job from his fresh contact with the university and from his fresh approach to his problems have enriched the entire teaching process at the college. All of this creative ferment has taken place on a campus, says Mrs. Wallace, remarkably friendly in atmosphere. This ferment and this friendliness she attributes to an outstanding faculty and to what she characterizes as the dynamic leadership of President R. H. Bradshaw. It is typical of Mary Wallace that she makes no mention of her own very significant role in creating that same spirit and that same excitement about good teaching.

The late 1960s were a time of innovation in education and RCC was a part of this movement. This page four article reported on an experimental Humanities class:

“Fourteen units of college credit in English composition and literature, American history, speech, and fine arts in one two-semester course? That is what the experimental Associate in Arts Program launched this fall offers RCC students. Seven faculty members and 125 students are cooperating in an exploration of the humanities without the shackles of traditional classroom methods. The experiment is one which seeks to explore the world of NOW using the vehicles of NOW. Requirements for the program include nine weekly hours of large and small group discussions, individual instruction, and off campus events. Reading assignments are often an outgrowth of the individual interest of the student, and the art of expression is practiced informally in any form the student deems appropriate, whether it be the familiar compositor, poetry, or a drawing. The semester theme, Freedom and Authority, is divided into four units: The Individual and the Community, Change and Stasis, The Person and His Culture, and Anxiety and Security.”
It is 1 year and 29 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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