

Nov, 1946

Dear Alumnus;

This letter to you was to have been written by Dr. Jenkins, but, because of his sudden and untimely death, it has become my task to acquaint you with our needs and to seek your active cooperation and assistance.

I feel that you should know that the State Board of Education has a ten-year building program for the expansion of the State Teachers Colleges. This plan will provide for the Danbury Teachers College: 1) small "islands" of land, now privately owned, located behind the college building. This land adjoins the present tract of seventeen acres; 2) a modern training school to be built on the land specified above; 3) a wing to the present college building to provide adequate space for laboratories, music practice rooms, gymnasium and classrooms.

The plans for the Teachers Colleges at New Haven and New Britain provide for additional land and buildings for both colleges. These colleges are also badly in need of additional facilities. The Willimantic Teachers College is now constructing a college building to replace the one which recently burned.

The Danbury Teachers College is, as you well know, primarily interested in preparing teachers for the schools of Connecticut. Today when we are faced with a great teacher shortage, our need of a modern laboratory school is of first and primary importance. We are still using Balmforth Avenue, Locust Avenue, Miry Brook and Mill Plain Schools but they are now very inadequate and outmoded. Inter-room or school activities such as group games, motion pictures, radio programs, school plays and parties cannot be enjoyed by our children; hot lunches are impossible except in one school where they are served in a basement.

Coupled with our primary function of training teachers is the task of meeting the needs of the youth and adults in other fields. We are now a regional college with five curricula instead of one and with a four-year program instead of the single two-year curriculum. Our four-year degree-granting courses include majors in elementary education, public school music, and rural education. The two-year Junior College curricula prepare students in the fields of electronics, laboratory technology, and in the general field of arts and sciences; - the courses which are needed by students transferring to other colleges. Because Veterans have entered Danbury Teachers College in great numbers, we are taxing our facilities to the maximum to meet their diversified needs.

To illustrate a few of our needs: the enrollment in our science courses has pyramided. Classes must be limited because of insufficient laboratory space, a fact which causes hardship on students wanting and needing work in science. The addition of music as a field of specialization requires sound-proof practice rooms and a room for orchestra rehearsals. Our gymnasium was built in 1906 for women students. The regulation size of a single basketball court is larger than the entire floor space. You may well imagine our problems in making physical activity attractive to and adequate for students in such a cramped space.

Your Alma Mater is asking your active assistance and support in order to achieve better educational facilities in our state. We sincerely hope that you will be enthusiastic in your efforts to inform the people in your area of the program which has been planned by the State Board of Education.

My very sincere good wishes to you in your efforts to improve educational opportunities for all of our students.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth A. Haas

November 4, 1946

Dear Fellow Alumnus:

The preceding letter describes the building program, planned by the State Board of Education, to meet the immediate and urgent needs of our Alma Mater. Many of us have been long hoping for this day to come.

Some who were here "when the normal-school was new", remember that the elementary schools were, in fact, model-schools and were visited by many persons, from far and near. The more recent classes have trained in the same rooms, each aware, in its turn, that the buildings were such as to make increasingly difficult the exemplification of a good elementary-school program. You all know the pressing need for a modern laboratory-school at Danbury; it is really imperative here if many future teachers are to continue to have optimal preparation for their profession.

The annual Alumni News-Letter has kept you acquainted with the expansion of the Teachers College offerings in the fields of science and public-school music, and of the changes made to meet the needs of many men and women students, veterans as well as civilians. The addition to the main college building, for these purposes and for gymnasium space, is urgent.

The State Board of Education has done its part; our Association of the Danbury State Teachers College Alumni, at the 1946 Reunion, heartily endorsed the program and pledged their active co-operation.

Building programs can become realities only when sufficient funds are made available. The General Assembly has the responsibility for such appropriation for all State purposes. Many members of this Legislature are interested in keeping high the standards of education in the State; however, they may not fully realize the important part played by strong Teachers College programs. This is where you can help your college.

Wherever you are living in the State, you should talk with the one, or two Representatives from your town and the Senator from your district, about the imperative need of Legislative appropriations to implement the State Board of Education program for a building program for the Teachers Colleges. These buildings are essential that this State may continue to have well-prepared teachers for its increasing school population, and to make it possible to meet the other needs, on a college level, of both the veteran and civilian youth of Connecticut. Try to get the ACTIVE support of each Legislator; keep in touch with events to see if further convincing data are needed.

If you feel that you need further information, write and request it. As you see your lawmakers, report to us on the enclosed blank. Let us know, also, if you are willing to be a press agent, or speaker before groups, or on the radio, in your locality. If you are residing in another State, write to your family and friends and urge them to do this for you.

We need your help !

Very cordially yours,

Melen Watkins Seeleris

President
Danbury Teachers College Alumni

Please mail this half of the page to Mrs. Paul Selelonis, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ Prospect Street, Danbury, Connecticut, by November 20, 1946.

I am willing to do, whatever I can, to bring about the fruition of the 1947 part of the State Board of Education ten-year building program for the Teachers Colleges.

(Please check)

..... by writing articles and having them printed in the
(newspaper)

..... by being a radio speaker, if needed

..... by speaking in the town(s) of before such groups
as

NameClass

Address
.....

Please mail this half of the page to Mrs. Paul Selelonis, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ Prospect Street, Danbury, Connecticut, by January 15, 1947.

(Please check)

I have talked with

Representative

Representative

Senator

I have placed a check after the names of each one who has already assured me that he is in favor of the implementation by appropriations, of 1947 part of the State Board of Education program for the Teachers Colleges.

NameClass

Address
.....