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HUMAN RELATIONS CENTER
FOR EDUCATION

In Transition To Desegregated Status

WKU Human Relations Center Aids Schools

By PIPES GAINES

Aiding Kentucky school districts make a smooth transition from a segregated to a desegregated status is a little publicized agency at Western Kentucky University known as the Western Kentucky Human Relations Center for Education.

Proposed by the university and brought to life by the College of Education in January 1966, the center has been in operation for 15 months now.

During this time the center has worked with some 21 school districts in Kentucky and neighboring states.

Originally visualized and established as a vehicle for assisting just the school districts within the university's service area, the center's operations were expanded three months after its formation to include the entire state of Kentucky. Expansion took place at the request of the United States Office of Education.

To date most of the school districts assisted have been located west of Lexington where the bulk of the state's Negro population is concentrated.

Center personnel have also been utilized in two West Virginia school districts and one Illinois district.

Dr. Morris Osburn, director of the center, heads a full time staff of four persons which include Dr. James Beck, associate director; Mrs. Janet Thomas, executive secretary, and Mrs. Dorothy Share, projects secretary.

J. Frank Jeager Jr., technical resource consultant and part time staff member, and two student assistants, Neva Gabhart and Marsha Wilson, complete the staff.

The local center has the distinction of being one of the first four such centers opened in the country. It is also the most heavily funded center in the country. Since its founding the center has received a total of \$532,000 in grants from the United States Office of Education. Some additional funds are provided by the university for the support of specific projects.

The Human Relations Center functions primarily in three areas:

—In-Service Extension Division.

—Leadership Institute Training Division.

—Resource Materials - Research Division.

Consultant services are at the heart of the assistance provided by the In-Service Extension Division. Consultants with Expert knowledge in the design and implementation of programs to solve problems brought about by school desegregation are made available upon the request of school district officials.

"Any school district in the state may contact us and we will work with them in designing a program," Osburn said. "We don't evaluate a school program in any instance. We are strictly a service agency."

Not only are consultants available from the center or the State Department of Education but recognized authorities from across the nation can be brought in with expenses borne by the center. All persons brought into consultation must be acceptable to the school district involved, Osburn said.

One measure of the success of the In-Service Extension Division's consultant services is the reaction of superintendents in those school districts that have been involved. To date all superintendents have indicated that the in-service program has been profitable and has improved the climate for promoting a smoother transition from a segregated system to a desegregated system.

The Leadership Institute Training Division is charged with the responsibility of designing and conducting model education programs that might prove more effective for desegregated classrooms. The center insists that these programs focus attention on the disadvantaged, and the Negro child as he or she functions in the desegregated classroom.

The center's first model program, conducted last summer, was divided into two phases. During the first phase, which lasted three weeks, teachers from 41 school districts received intensified training on how to teach a disadvantaged child in a desegregated classroom.

The second phase consisted of six weeks of actual teaching experience with selected students in grades one through 12 from the city and county school systems. Classes were conducted from 8:30 a.m. to noon five days a week at three city schools.

This summer the Human Relations Center will repeat its model program. Unlike last year the focus of the 1967 edition will be on school administrators rather than teachers.

Basically model programs are intended to provide classroom teachers, school administrators, non-instructional personnel, and lay persons greater opportunity to become involved, firsthand, in creative programs that promote an acceptable learning climate for children of all races and socioeconomic levels.

The Resource Materials-Research Division conducts basic research in the broad areas of desegregation and human relations. One of the ultimate purposes envisioned for this unit is that of establishing and maintaining a communications network with other centers and agencies across the nation conducting similar programs to those of the local center. The findings of similar projects would be valuable data to school districts, community agencies, and the local center.

Research projects now underway in the Resource Materials-Research Division include:

—A study to determine the relationship of the social climate to the degree of desegregation in Kentucky school districts.

—A study to determine the influence of federal regulations on the degree of desegregation in Kentucky.

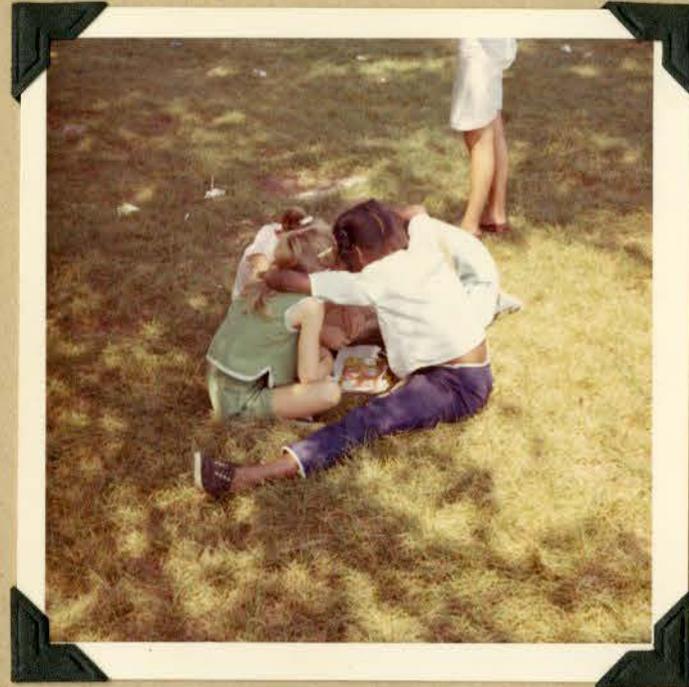
—A study to determine the leadership qualities of those school administrators that have promoted desegregation in Kentucky.

Activities undertaken by the center are approved and coordinated through the dean of the College of Education and are reviewed by a biracial advisory council of 15 members. Council membership is drawn from the ranks of classroom teachers, school district superintendents, college teachers, and administrators and officials of professional education associations. The council meets at scheduled intervals to review the progress of activities supported by the center.

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1966

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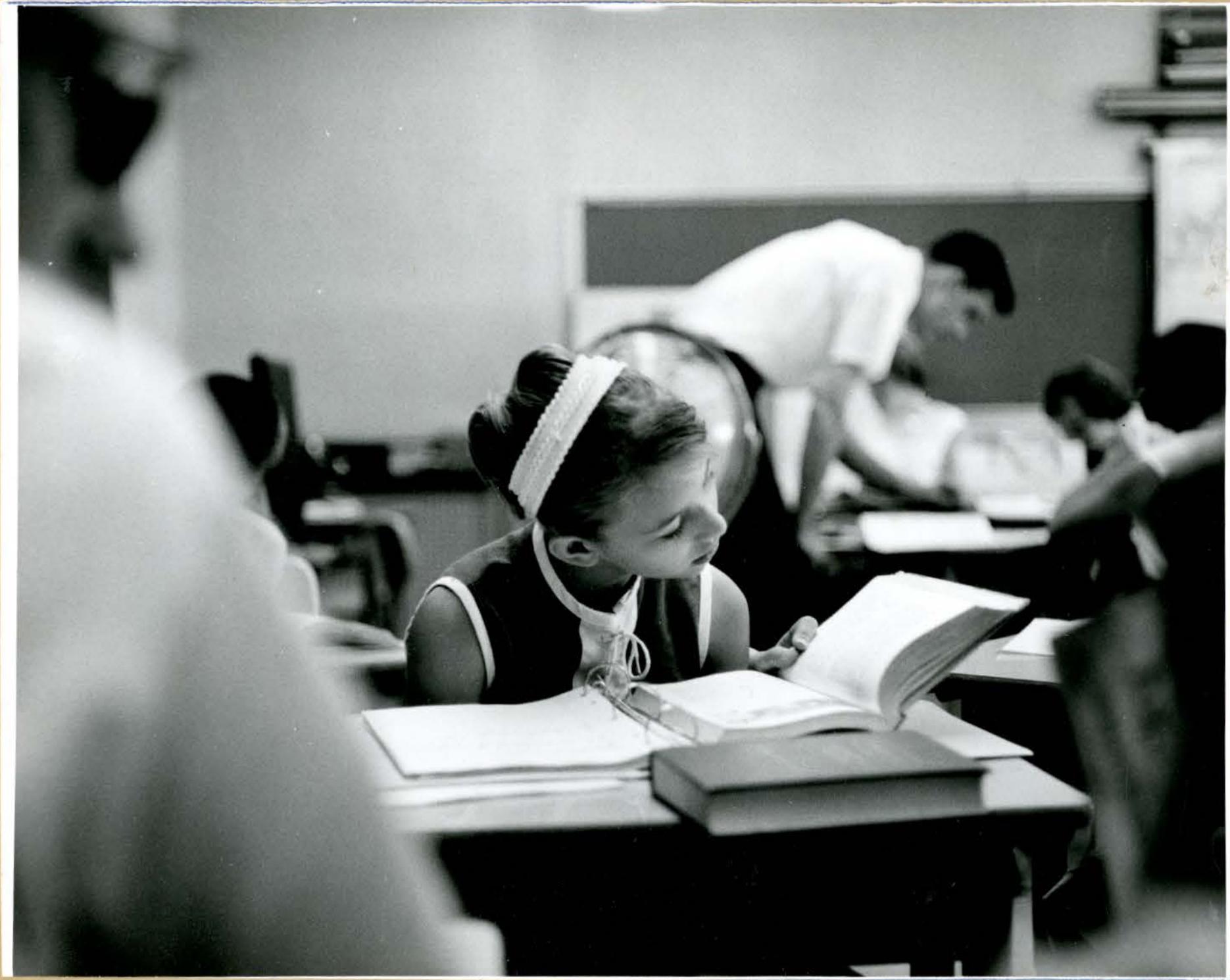
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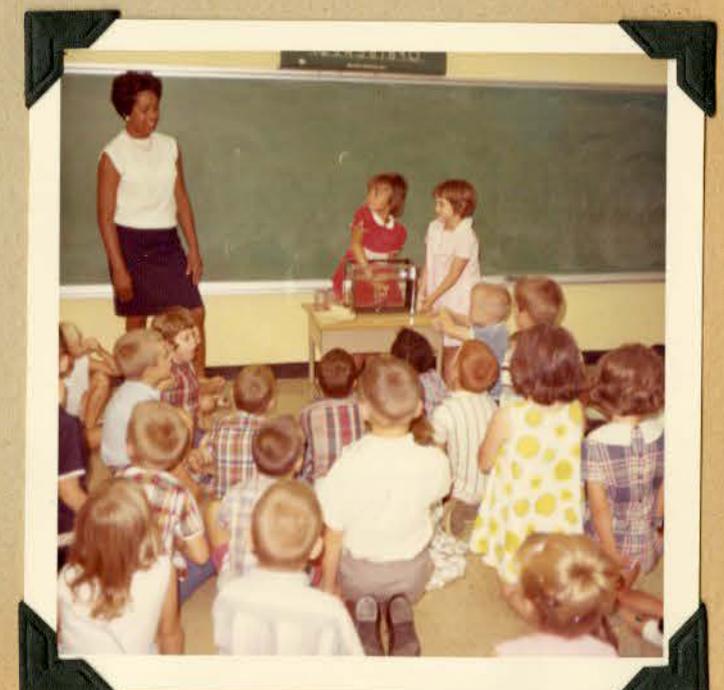




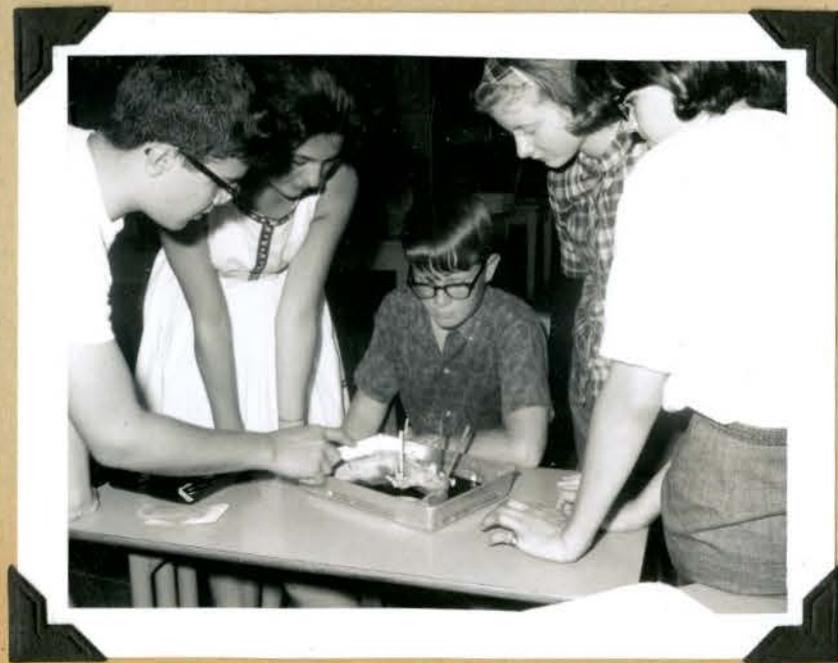
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2 THE COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD, Bowling Green, Kentucky
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1966

Human Relations Center One of Four in Country

By RONNIE BENNINGFIELD
Western's human relations center, headed by Dr. Morris Osburn, is one of four such centers in the United States financed by the U.S. Office of Education.

The Center was established to serve local school districts and communities in examining problems and designing programs which help solve problems brought on by the desegregation of schools.

Recent Grant

A recent \$400,000 federal grant has boosted the Center's budget and will support expansion of present projects and development of new programs.

Dr. Osburn said the grant from the Equal Educational Opportunities Program of the Department of Education will be used:

—To conduct basic research into the desegregation of schools.

—To design new summer programs for 1967 and continue the summer leadership institute conducted last summer.

—To support current projects in Hopkinsville and Christian County, Paducah and Lexington exploring new curriculum designs and organization for desegregated classrooms.

—To finance administrative expenses through Dec. 31, 1967.

The first federal grant for the center amounted to \$132,000.

Summer Institute

The Center's on-campus institute this summer was for teachers working with culturally disadvantaged students. The eight-week project, which began June 13, provided 30 teachers, 30 teacher aids and 30 intern teachers from elementary and high schools the opportunity to receive experience working in a normal classroom climate.

The first two weeks were devoted to an intensive training program. The next six weeks the teachers worked in a school with children in the morning and planned and attended seminars in the afternoon.

The project was supported by the U.S. Office of Education; the university College of Education; Human Relations Center for Education, Kentucky State Department of Public Instruction; Bowling Green Independent school district and Warren county school district.

Assisting Dr. Osburn are Dr. James D. Beck, associate director of the center, and Frank Yeager, technical resource consultant and consultant for the U.S. Office of Education.

\$400,000 Grant Received By WKU Center

A \$400,000 federal grant boosted Western's Human Relations Center budget and will support expansion of present projects and development of new programs, the director of the center said today.

Dr. Morris Osburn said the grant from the Equal Educational Opportunities Program of the Department of Education will be used:

—To conduct basic research into the desegregation of schools.

—To design new summer programs for 1967 and continue the summer leadership institute conducted last summer.

—To support current projects in Hopkinsville and Christian County, Paducah and Lexington exploring new curriculum designs and organization for desegregated classrooms.

—To finance administrative expenses through Dec. 31, 1967.

Commissioner of Education Harold Howe II announced approval of the grant yesterday.

The Center's first federal grant amounted to \$132,000.

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