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## UA45/6 Preserving the Spirit of the University

Allan Ostar

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PRESERVING THE SPIRIT OF THE UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS  
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY  
JULY 30, 1976  
ALLAN W. OSTAR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

975  
1800  
2573  
in brackets

76 7  
GOOD EVENING, PRESIDENT DOWNING, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, FACULTY, HONORED GUESTS, PARENTS, AND HONORED GRADUATES. IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE WITH YOU THIS EVENING AND SHARE THIS VERY SPECIAL OCCASION WITH YOU.

I MUST ADMIT THAT AFTER AN EXPERIENCE I HAD ABOUT A YEAR AGO I AM A BIT NERVOUS ABOUT OUTDOOR COMMENCEMENTS. STANDING WITH SPEECH IN HAND BEFORE AN AUDIENCE IN VIRGINIA, I GOT ABOUT AS FAR AS "GOOD AFTERNOON" WHEN THE DELUGE BROKE OVER THE CEREMONIES. <sup>my bl. alarm appeared and</sup> IT WAS NOT ONLY THE SHORTEST SPEECH I EVER HAVE GIVEN, IT ALSO WAS THE WILDEST STUDENT APPLAUSE I HAVE EVER HEARD.

NOTWITHSTANDING MY APPREHENSION ABOUT THE OPEN AIR CEREMONIES, I AM DELIGHTED TO BE IN THE GREEN, CLEAN, AND REFRESHING HILLS OF WESTERN KENTUCKY. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE SUMMERS WE HAVE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., BUT THE AIR IS HOT AND MURKY--EVEN WHEN CONGRESS IS NOT IN SESSION. THERE IS AN AIR OF EXPECTANCY IN WASHINGTON NOW AS RESIDENTS AWAIT THE FALL ELECTION. ELECTIONS HAVE QUITE A WIDESPREAD EFFECT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, NOT ONLY AMONG CONGRESSIONAL STAFFS,

WHITE HOUSE AIDES, AND FEDERAL OFFICEHOLDERS, BUT ALSO, FOR EXAMPLE, AMONG RESTAURANT OWNERS WHO HAVE BEEN MADE FAMOUS BY PRESIDENTIAL PATRONAGE. THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION MADE THE JOCKEY CLUB FAMOUS; NIXON STAFF PEOPLE BROUGHT SANS SOUCI INTO THE LIMELIGHT; AND NOW I HEAR THAT LAFAYETTE PARK <sup>right</sup> ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE WHITE HOUSE IS BEING STAKED OUT BY PEANUT VENDORS.

I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF KNOWING PRESIDENT DOWNING FOR SOME YEARS THOROUGH HIS MEMBERSHIP AND HIS WORK IN THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. I ALSO HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING ONE OF YOUR REKNOWNED ALUMNI, MR. JULIAN GOODMAN. THREE YEARS AGO MR. GOODMAN RECEIVED THE ASSOCIATION'S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD WHICH IS GIVEN EACH YEAR TO AN OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS OF ONE OF THE 320 STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WHICH BELONG TO THE ASSOCIATION. *I will have a special pl. in the*

*president was in the building in the morning*

ACCORDING TO DR. DOWNING, THESE GROUNDS ARE FULL OF POTENTIAL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI, AND I BELIEVE HIM BECAUSE HE HAS PROVED RIGHT SO FAR. I USED TO THINK THAT HE EXAGGERATED WHEN HE TALKED OF HOW BEAUTIFUL THE CAMPUS WAS--ALL UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS SAY THAT. BUT NOW THAT I HAVE SEEN IT MYSELF, I'M GOING TO BELIEVE EVERYTHING THAT PRESIDENT DOWNING SAYS. *Big state in Ohio*

*keep copies of this letter  
and the other  
one provided  
you to the  
state  
will  
be kept up  
quickly*

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES. THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL DAY FOR YOU, AND YOU ARE RECEIVING A VERY SPECIAL DIPLOMA. THERE IS NOT ANOTHER LIKE IT--FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY IS UNIQUE. EACH INSTITUTION IS UNIQUE. JUST AS IT HAS ITS OWN SEAL AND ITS OWN MOTTO, IT HAS ITS OWN CHARACTER, FORMED BY THE PERSONALITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATORS AND FACULTY; BY THE TYPE OF

STUDENTS WHO ATTEND AND THEIR VALUES AND ASPIRATIONS; AND BY THE COMMUNITY WHICH INTERACTS WITH THE INSTITUTION AND ITS NEEDS, ITS EXPECTATIONS, AND WHAT IT GIVES IN RETURN.

WESTERN KENTUCKY CERTAINLY IS UNIQUE. I KNOW OF NO OTHER UNIVERSITY WHICH HAS A RED TOWEL AS A SCHOOL MASCOT. I GUESS IT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE PRACTICALITY OF HILLTOPPERS. UNLIKE UNIVERSITIES WITH BUFFALOES AND BEARS AS MASCOTS, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FEEDING A TOWEL.

WESTERN KENTUCKY HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE SET OF IDEALS, FORMULATED BY ITS FIRST PRESIDENT, HENRY HARDIN CHERRY, WHEN THE INSTITUTION WAS CALLED WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE NORMAL SCHOOL. THE IDEAL WHICH PARTICULARLY STRUCK ME WHEN I READ IT WAS FOR WESTERN KENTUCKY "TO BE A LIVE SCHOOL AND TO IMPART TO ITS STUDENTS A BURNING ZEAL TO DO AND TO BE SOMETHING." THAT IS A MARVELOUS IDEAL BECAUSE IT CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF WHAT A UNIVERSITY SHOULD BE: A DYNAMIC ORGANISM, A LIVE SCHOOL, ONE THAT GROWS AND CHANGES, MOVES IN NEW AND DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS; AND ALWAYS WITH AN ENERGY, A FORCE WHICH COALESCES IN STUDENTS TO PRODUCE A ZEAL TO LEARN AND TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY.

THE ZEAL TO LEARN AND TO DO SOMETHING IS CERTAINLY A REFERENCE IN YOUR MOTTO, "THE SPIRIT IS THE MASTER." AGAIN, THAT IS AN EMINENTLY PRACTICAL PART OF THIS UNIVERSITY; IF YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING, IF YOU WANT TO BE SOMEBODY, THEN YOU CAN--IF YOU DIRECT YOUR ENERGIES AND WORK TOWARD IT. IF YOU BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU ARE DOING, IF YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF, THEN YOU ARE THE MASTER.

THIS SPIRIT, THIS SENSE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE, IS ONE VERY IMPORTANT PART OF WESTERN'S UNIQUE CHARACTER. NOT BECAUSE IT HAPPENS TO BE EMBLAZONED ON BOOKS AND PAPER, BUT BECAUSE IT IS SHARED AMONG FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND ADMINISTRATORS. I KNOW THAT PRESIDENT DOWNING IS PROUD OF WHAT HE CALLS "THAT OTHER THING." HE IS NOT TALKING ABOUT THE MECHANICS OF LEARNING-- CLASSROOMS, LECTURES, BOOKS, OR LABORATORIES--ALL INSTITUTIONS <sup>have</sup> POSSESS THOSE. THE INGREDIENT TO WHICH PRESIDENT DOWNING REFERS IS THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY, THE SHARING OF GOALS AND DREAMS AND ASPIRATIONS, WHICH IS FOUND HERE. IT IS A MAGIC SPARK WHICH IGNITES INTELLECTUAL FIRES: IT AWAKENS A DESIRE FOR FELLOWSHIP AND A NEED TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE SURROUNDING ACTIVITY.

A SENSE OF COMMUNITY SOUNDS LIKE A BROAD PHRASE, BUT I KNOW YOU CAN PINPOINT THE EXPERIENCES YOU HAVE HAD HERE WHICH HAVE CEMENTED THAT BOND. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED ON CAMPUS AND THE FACULTY AND STAFF WERE ON HAND TO HELP YOU MOVE IN; THE HELP YOU HAD FROM AN ADVISOR IN PLANNING YOUR COURSES; THE TIME A PROFESSOR GAVE YOU AFTER CLASS TO GO OVER A PAPER YOU WANTED TO DO.

CERTAINLY THE FELLOWSHIP AND FAITH THAT WELLED UP IN THE LOCKER ROOM FOLLOWING THIS YEAR'S CAMELLIA BOWL CAPTURES THE UNIQUE SPIRIT OF WESTERN KENTUCKY. BILL CONLIN, THE SPORTS EDITOR OF THE SACRAMENTO <sup>Colo.</sup> PAPER, WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED BY WHAT HE CALLED THE "DIGNITY, SOLEMNITY, AND CHARACTER" OF THE TEAM AND COACH FELIX--AND SPORTS EDITORS BY AND LARGE ARE A PRETTY CYNICAL LOT. AFTER THAT COLUMN APPEARED, A LOT OF PEOPLE AROUND THE COUNTRY REALIZED THAT WESTERN KENTUCKY WAS A SPECIAL PLACE WITH SOME VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE.

THIS SPECIAL FEELING EXISTS NOT ONLY BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR PROFESSORS, COACHES, AND CLASSMATES, IT HAS ALSO SUFFUSED THE COMMUNITY AS WELL. UNLIKE THE "TOWN AND GOWN" PROBLEMS WHICH EXIST ON SOME CAMPUSES AROUND THE COUNTRY, WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY AND BOWLING GREEN HAVE ESTABLISHED A STRONG SPIRIT OF COOPERATION. UNIVERSITIES CAN BE TREMENDOUS RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITIES, SOURCES OF EXPERTISE AND MANPOWER TO ASSIST COMMUNITIES IN PLANNING OR IDENTIFYING PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGIES. <sup>The only</sup> COMMUNITY SERVICE IS, <sup>of course</sup> I THINK, JUST AS IMPORTANT A GOAL FOR A UNIVERSITY AS THE PROVISION OF QUALITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS. THERE ARE NO SET RULES FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE. AN INSTITUTION MUST BE GUIDED BY THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY AND REGION, JUST AS IT MUST TAILOR ITS COURSES TO THE NEEDS OF ITS STUDENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, AN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY WOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO THE COMMUNITY; BUT A PROGRAM IN AGRI-BUSINESS AT EASTERN OREGON STATE COLLEGE CERTAINLY IS. AS IS A PROGRAM IN MINING ENGINEERING SAFETY AT WEST VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, AND A PROGRAM IN SUGAR CANE TECHNOLOGY AT NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY IN LOUISIANA.

THE STRENGTH OF COMMUNITY SERVICE, OF COURSE, LIES IN A UNIVERSITY'S ABILITY TO MARSHALL ITS FORCES IN LINE WITH THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS. THE QUICKNESS WITH WHICH A UNIVERSITY RESPONDS IN SETTING UP A LEARNING CENTER, OR AN EXTENSION PROGRAM, OR DESIGNING A COURSE, OR FREEING A FACULTY MEMBER FOR A PROJECT IS THE MEASURE OF ITS SERVICE. WESTERN KENTUCKY HAS CEMENTED ITS TIES WITH BOWLING GREEN FOR SEVERAL REASONS. ONE, IT HAS BEEN PERCEPTIVE IN IDENTIFYING WAYS IN WHICH IT COULD HELP.

*has*  
*asph*  
TWO, ITS FACULTY AND STAFF WISH TO COOPERATE WITH OFFICIALS  
AND CITIZENS IN TOWN. THREE, IT HAS THE FREEDOM TO MAKE  
DECISIONS AND ACT UPON THEM.

THESE ARE THE SAME REASONS WHY WESTERN KENTUCKY IS A FINE  
UNIVERSITY WHICH IS ABLE TO GIVE ITS STUDENTS THE QUALITY  
EDUCATION THEY DESIRE. NONE OF YOU WOULD BE HERE TODAY IF  
WESTERN KENTUCKY HAD NOT RESPONDED TO YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND  
PERSONAL NEEDS. BUT IT DID.

WESTERN KENTUCKY IS ABLE TO RESPOND, IS ABLE TO BALANCE  
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND STUDENT NEEDS WITH UNIVERSITY RESOURCES  
SUCCESSFULLY BECAUSE THE FULCRUM OF CONTROL IS HERE. BY THAT  
I MEAN THAT THE CONTROL IS LOCAL: THE UNIVERSITY IS GOVERNED  
BY A LOCAL BOARD <sup>of trustees</sup> WHICH SETS POLICY, AND THAT POLICY IS CARRIED  
OUT BY THE PRESIDENT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL DECISIONS. <sup>the</sup>

I DOUBT THAT MANY OF YOU GRADUATES HAVE EVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE  
IMPACT OF LOCAL CONTROL DURING YOUR YEARS HERE; BUT, IN FACT,  
THAT LOCAL CONTROL IS WHAT RETAINS THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF THIS  
UNIVERSITY. WITHOUT IT, YOUR EXPERIENCES HERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN  
<sup>quite</sup> VERY DIFFERENT.

IN A GROWING NUMBER OF STATES, THE POWER OF THE INDEPENDENT  
LAY GOVERNING BOARDS <sup>of trustees</sup> HAS BEEN CONSOLIDATED IN ONE STATEWIDE  
SUPERBOARD OR IN A STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION, OR SOME COMPARABLE <sup>gov't</sup>  
AGENCY. MASSACHUSETTS IS CONSIDERING SUCH A REORGANIZATION.  
THE CONNECTICUT LEGISLATURE JUST VOTED DOWN SUCH A SHIFT IN  
<sup>control</sup> AND I KNOW THAT THE STATE OF KENTUCKY NOW IS DEVELOPING  
A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE.

A DEGREE OF STATE PLANNING IS, OF COURSE, NECESSARY, AS IS THE COORDINATION DIRECTED BY THE STATE COUNCIL. STATEWIDE PLANNING AND COORDINATION CAN INSURE THAT RESOURCES ARE USED EFFECTIVELY BY AVOIDING UNNECESSARY AND COSTLY DUPLICATION OF PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES. AT A TIME WHEN THE STATE'S RESOURCES ARE BEING TAPPED BY INCREASING DEMANDS IN AREAS OF ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND TRANSIT, SUCH COORDINATION DEMONSTRATES THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

BUT, STATEWIDE COORDINATION MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO BECOME STATEWIDE CONTROL. SUCH CONTROL CAN HAVE SEVERAL ADVERSE EFFECTS UPON THE UNIVERSITY. ONE; JUDGMENTS OF WHAT PROGRAMS BEST SERVE LOCAL NEEDS ARE BEST EXERCISED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL BY PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN THE COMMUNITY. JUDGMENTS MADE AT THE STATE LEVEL, PHYSICALLY AND PERSONALLY REMOVED FROM THE SITUATION, ARE NOT BASED UPON THE SAME FAMILIARITY OR INSTINCTS. TWO; WHEN SALARY REQUESTS, BUDGET PLANNING, OR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS MUST BE FILTERED THROUGH A STATE BOARD, COUNCIL, OR OFFICE, ANOTHER LEVEL OF BUREAUCRACY AND RED TAPE IS CREATED. THE RESPONSE TIME IS SLOWED, AND THE INSTITUTIONAL DECISION-MAKING BECOMES SLUGGISH. THE CONCEPT OF A LIVE UNIVERSITY, A DYNAMIC AND CHANGING PLACE, CANNOT BE RECONCILED WITH A LOSS OF AUTONOMY. THREE; STATE CONTROL, BY DEFINITION, IS STATEWIDE CONFORMITY WITH RULES, REGULATIONS, AND PROCEDURES. BUT POLICIES ON FACULTY RELEASE TIME WHICH WORK WELL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, MIGHT NOT WORK WELL HERE AT WESTERN KENTUCKY. CONFORMITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION IS NOT A BLESSING. IT INHIBITS THE ABILITY



TO TAKE NEW INITIATIVES OR RESPOND TO SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE REGION.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, DR. FRED HARCLEROD, RECENTLY CONDUCTED A STUDY FOR THE ASSOCIATION ON THE EFFECTS OF STATE CENTRALIZATION ON INSTITUTIONAL EFFICIENCY. WHILE EFFICIENCY IS GIVEN AS ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF STATE CENTRALIZATION, THE STUDY FOUND THAT STATE CONTROL FREQUENTLY RESULTS IN ITS OWN INEFFICIENCIES. FOR EXAMPLE, HARCLEROD FOUND THAT IN CALIFORNIA, WHERE ALL INSTITUTIONS ARE REQUIRED TO BUY FURNITURE FROM THE SAME STATE AGENCY, FURNITURE FOR A NEW LIBRARY WAS HELD UP FOR MONTHS BECAUSE THE EXPERIENCED CABINET MAKERS AT THE PENITENTIARY WERE PAROLED. IN FLORIDA, WHERE ALL BUILDING PLANS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE STATE'S ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS WERE ADDED TO BUILDING COSTS WHILE CONSTRUCTION WAS DELAYED FOR APPROVAL.

*was found*  
HARCLEROD FOUND AN INTERESTING PARALLEL WHICH THOSE OF YOU GRADUATING IN BUSINESS SHOULD FIND NOTEWORTHY. SAFEWAY, A NATIONAL GROCERY CHAIN, HAS DECENTRALIZED CONTROL. THAT IS, IF THE LOCAL MANAGER WANTS TO SPEND HIS OR HER ADVERTISING BUDGET BY RENTING THE GOODYEAR BLIMP, THE MANAGER IS FREE TO DO SO. *what's the result?*  
A & P, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS CENTRALIZED CONTROL. ALL DECISIONS ARE MADE AT THE HOME OFFICE. SAFEWAY MAKES SEVERAL MILLION IN PROFIT EACH YEAR. A & P HAS BEEN RUNNING IN THE RED, BUT IT HAS LEARNED ITS LESSON. ITS NEW PRESIDENT IS *speed* DECENTRALIZING THE COMPANY AND ACCORDING TO RECENT REPORTS, A & P IS BEGINNING TO SHOW A PROFIT. *Building cost held off + lower cost*

*hope not false*

I HOPE THAT THE DECISIONS REACHED BY THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING BODY WILL PRESERVE THE AUTONOMY OF WESTERN KENTUCKY AND THE AUTHORITY OF ITS BOARD AND PRESIDENT. THE STUDENTS WHO FOLLOW YOU HERE SHOULD HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THE UNIQUE CHARACTER AND THE UNIQUE SPIRIT WHICH IS WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY.

SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE READ ARTICLES RECENTLY, SUCH AS THE ONE IN NEWSWEEK ENTITLED "WHO NEEDS COLLEGE?" OR HEARD REPORTS THAT WE HAVE AN "OVERSUPPLY" OF COLLEGE GRADUATES, OR LISTENED TO FORECASTS THAT FUTURE JOBS WILL REQUIRE "FEWER COLLEGE DEGREES." <sup>if any to you</sup> MY COMMENT IS: DON'T BUY THAT NONSENSE. OUR SOCIETY NEEDS THE BEST THAT EACH OF YOU HAS TO OFFER.

IF YOU WERE TO LOOK AT THE MANPOWER SITUATION IN THIS COUNTRY IN TERMS OF QUALITY OF LIFE, YOU WOULD SEE THAT WE DON'T HAVE A MANPOWER SURPLUS. INSTEAD WE HAVE AN EXTREME SHORTAGE OF GRADUATES WITH THE TRAINING AND COMMITMENT NEEDED TO HELP SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REPORTED THAT THE NUMBER OF NEW TEACHERS EXCEEDS THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE JOBS BY OVER 100,000 PEOPLE. HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF NEW TEACHERS REQUIRED TO RAISE THE QUALITY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND STAFFING TO MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE LEVELS IS OVER 400,000 MORE TEACHERS THAN ACTUALLY ARE AVAILABLE.

HOW CAN WE TALK ABOUT TOO MANY COLLEGE GRADUATES WHEN IN THIS COUNTRY TODAY <sup>we have</sup> THERE ARE OVER ONE MILLION ADULTS WHO NEED HELP IN LEARNING TO READ? THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 160 COUNTIES WHICH

DO NOT HAVE DOCTORS OR <sup>any form of</sup> PRIMARY HEALTH CARE. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 20 CITIES WHERE THE WATER THEORETICALLY IS UNDRINKABLE. TO MEET THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE STANDARDS FOR AIR, WATER, SOIL, WASTE, AND NOISE POLLUTION, WE WOULD NEED AN ADDITIONAL 274,000 TRAINED PROFESSIONALS THAT WE DON'T HAVE.

MANY HISTORIANS AND FUTURISTS HAVE POINTED OUT THAT THE NEED FOR PEOPLE WITH PROBLEM-SOLVING EXPERTISE ONLY WILL INCREASE THROUGHOUT THIS CENTURY AS OUR PROBLEMS BECOME MORE COMPLEX. SOCIOLOGIST DANIEL BELL STATES THAT THE "MAJOR MEANS OF ACCESS TO THE TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL JOBS OF A POST-INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY IS EDUCATION. KNOWLEDGE BECOMES AN EXTRAORDINARY STRATEGIC RESOURCE."

KNOWLEDGE IS A PRICELESS RESOURCE. ONCE OBTAINED, IT CANNOT BE LOST. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ARE THE MOST EFFICIENT INSTITUTIONS THIS COUNTRY HAS FOR INSTILLING KNOWLEDGE. THEIR FUNCTION IS IRREPLACABLE, AS IS THE DEGREE WHICH YOU HAVE EARNED.

RESEARCH DONE BY ~~STEPHEN WITHEY~~, PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, SHOWS THAT COLLEGE GRADUATES HAVE STEADIER EMPLOYMENT, LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, MORE FRINGE BENEFITS, SAFER WORKING CONDITIONS, AND GREATER JOB SATISFACTION. THEY ALSO ARE MORE HUMANISTIC IN THEIR VALUES, MORE TOLERANT OF DIFFERENCES, MORE OPPOSED TO SIMPLISTIC AND VIOLENT SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS AT HOME AND ABROAD, MORE SUPPORTIVE OF THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES, AND MAKE BETTER PARENTS. THESE CHARACTERISTICS ARE INCREASING, NOT DECLINING, IN VALUE, *at least in the*

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK SAID, "DEMOCRACY IS THE CONVICTION THAT THERE ARE EXTRAORDINARY POSSIBILITIES IN ORDINARY PEOPLE." STATE UNIVERSITIES ARE THE PROOF OF THAT CONVICTION. THEY WERE CREATED IN THE BELIEF THAT EVERYONE BENEFITS BY INVESTING IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR YOUNG PEOPLE. THROUGH STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WE HAVE BENEFITED FROM PEOPLE SUCH AS JONAS SALK WHO ERADICATED POLIO, AUTHOR EUDORA WELTY, METROPOLITAN OPERA STAR LEONTYNE PRICE, AND FORMER PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON.

THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS BECAUSE OF THE OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED THEM TO ATTEND A STATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY. THINK OF THE THINGS THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DO IN ENGINEERING, BUSINESS, BIOPHYSICS, AGRICULTURE, OR INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY BECAUSE YOU HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO <sup>study</sup> LEARN HERE. IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY WHICH I'M AFRAID TOO MANY PEOPLE TAKE FOR GRANTED, AND, AS A RESULT, THEY ARE OBLIVIOUS TO THE FACT THAT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY IS SLIPPING FROM THEIR GRASP.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY IS DEPENDENT UPON THE PRICE OF AN EDUCATION. STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT IN STATES WITH LOW TUITION COLLEGES, GREATER PERCENTAGES OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES GO TO COLLEGE AS COMPARED WITH STATES WITH HIGH TUITION PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS. THE ASSOCIATION HAS ANALYZED QUITE A BIT OF DATA, PUBLISHED IN ITS RECENT LOW TUITION FACT BOOK, AND HAS FOUND THAT FEWER LOWER AND MIDDLE INCOME FAMILIES CAN AFFORD TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO COLLEGE. <sup>in 1969</sup> BETWEEN 1969 AND 1973 THERE <sup>has been</sup> WAS A 20 PERCENT DROP IN FULL-TIME COLLEGE ATTENDANCE OF

18- TO 24-YEAR-OLDS FROM FAMILIES EARNING LESS THAN \$15,000  
A YEAR.

MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES HAVE BEEN CAUGHT IN A VERY PAINFUL  
*as if it were already known*  
SQUEEZE. LEGISLATORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICIALS HAVE RAISED TUITION  
IN PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, FREQUENTLY GIVING THE  
RATIONALIZATION THAT STUDENT AID WOULD EASE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN  
FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES. BUT THE MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME  
IS ABOUT \$13,000 A YEAR, AND STUDENTS AT THIS LEVEL ARE ELIGIBLE  
FOR LITTLE, IF ANY, STUDENT AID. THE RESULT IS THAT MIDDLE-INCOME  
STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES MUST ABSORB THE TUITION INCREASE.  
AND THIS IS HAVING A GRAVE IMPACT UPON THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND  
*on middle income*  
COLLEGE. LOW-INCOME FAMILIES ARE FINDING THAT THE STUDENT AID  
THEY RECEIVE IS INADEQUATE TO MEET RISING COSTS.

TAXPAYERS MUST MAINTAIN THEIR INVESTMENT IN LOW TUITION  
STATE UNIVERSITIES. THAT INVESTMENT KEEPS THE DOOR OPEN FOR THE  
FUTURE JONAS SALKS AND THE FUTURE GRADUATES SUCH AS YOURSELVES.  
*cannot*  
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE YOUR EXTRAORDINARY POSSIBILITIES. WE  
*cannot*  
CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE THE PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS, THE CIVIC  
RESPONSIBILITY, AND THE ABILITY TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES.

NO ONE SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN YOU THE VALUE OF HAVING  
SOCIETY INVEST ITS MONEY AND *its* FAITH IN THE EDUCATION OF ITS YOUNG  
PEOPLE. AS GRADUATES, YOU HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT  
*a*  
FROM LOW TUITION PUBLIC *university* HIGHER EDUCATION. AS CITIZENS AND  
TAXPAYERS, YOU WILL ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SUPPORT OF  
THIS UNIVERSITY. HOW WELL YOU GUARD THAT RESPONSIBILITY WILL  
DETERMINE WHETHER THIS UNIVERSITY CAN *cost* OFFER A HIGH QUALITY

EDUCATION TO THE FUTURE STUDENTS OF KENTUCKY, WITHOUT YOUR PUBLIC SUPPORT, FUTURE GENERATIONS MAY BE DENIED THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES THAT YOU HAVE HAD. AND YOU, AND ALL OF SOCIETY, WILL BE DEPRIVED OF THEIR SKILLS AND EXPERTISE. EVERYONE WHO HAS RECEIVED THE BENEFIT OF A PUBLIC EDUCATION HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO GIVE THIS OPPORTUNITY IN RETURN.

WHEREVER YOU GO FROM HERE, INTO BUSINESS, EDUCATION, INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT SERVICE, I HOPE YOU WILL KEEP THE SPIRIT OF WESTERN KENTUCKY ALIVE SO THAT THOSE WHO FOLLOW YOU WILL HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO BE IMBUED WITH A BURNING ZEAL TO DO AND TO BE SOMETHING.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF YOU, AND THANKS FOR LETTING ME SHARE THIS OCCASION WITH YOU.