

***HISTORY
OF
WILLISTON
STATE COLLEGE***

presented by
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(Information contained in this document is based on available records and to the best of my knowledge is accurate. --- Garvin Loyd Stevens.)

**WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE (UND-WILLISTON)
ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER**

1957-66	Ben G. Gustafson, Dean, General Extension Division, and Director, Williston Center
1966-67	Emil Stadel, Director, Williston Center
1967-70	Garvin Stevens, Director, Williston Center
1970-88	Garvin Stevens, Dean, UND-Williston
1988-99	Garvin Stevens, Executive Dean, UND-Williston
1999-present	Garvin Stevens, President, Williston State College

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
PRESIDENTIAL ROSTER**

1954-71	Dr. George Starcher
1971-92	Dr. Tom Clifford
1992-99	Dr. Kendall Baker
1999---	Dr. Charles Kupchella

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF UND-WILLISTON

August, 1952

A historical date in the history of what was to become UND-Williston. That is the date a group of community leaders from northwest North Dakota met to discuss the potential for establishing a junior college or an agricultural and trades school to serve the Upper Missouri area of North Dakota. The committee also discussed possible locations for the college and it was decided that the current NDSU Experiment Farm located on the west edge of Williston would be a suitable location.

January, 1953

The 1953 Legislative session passed legislation which authorized the State Board of Higher Education to dispose of a portion of the farm and reestablishment of a dryland experimental sub-station at another location in Williston. The Williston Experiment Station consisted of 160 acres. The Legislature directed that 80 acres be sold and the proceeds be used for the expense of relocating the Station. The remaining 80 acres was to be reserved for "educational purposes". The State Board of Higher Education had purchased 640 acres of land five miles west of Williston, where the new Experiment Farm would be located.

November, 1953

College Hill Development Association was established for the purpose of acquiring the 80 acres of the Williston Experiment Station land put up for bids. The College Hill Development Association was the successful bidder on December 8, 1953 for the 80 acres of land for \$175,000. The 80 acres was divided into individual residential lots to be sold to local community members.

August, 1954

The Board of Higher Education delivered the deeds to the original Williston Experiment Station to the College Hill Development Association.

February, 1956

A group of local citizens established the Northwest Trade School Association to promote, through the Legislature, adoption of an amendment to the state constitution which authorized the establishment of a trade school in Williston. Governor John E. Davis signed the legislation March 11, 1957. This legislation was on the general election ballot June 25, 1956. The legislation was defeated by the voters of North Dakota.

June, 1956

The new Williston Branch Experiment Station was dedicated.

February, 1957

Tom Clifford, Dean of College of Business Administration, and Ben G. Gustafson, Director of Extension Division at the University of North Dakota, came to Williston to explore the interest in offering college extension classes in Williston. The response was overwhelmingly positive. The first classes were offered in Williston in September, 1957 and consisted of a limited number of freshman level classes. These classes were held in the Central School building in downtown Williston. Dr. George Starcher was the president of the University of North Dakota and Leonard T. Havig was the Superintendent of Schools in Williston during this historic time.

November, 1958

The U. S. Office of Education recommended a junior college be established in Williston and urged state support for Bismarck Junior College. The U. S. office was under contract with the Legislative Research Committee. The survey team recommended revision of the 1948 junior college law to permit the Board of Higher Education to create new state two-year colleges or acquire existing ones. It also recommended the state either aid or take over Bismarck Junior College and establish a new two-year school at Williston. The Legislative Research Sub-Committee on Education recommended that junior colleges be given state financial aid and that a provision be made for incorporating junior colleges into the state college system. The Sub-Committee recommended that junior colleges with an enrollment of 100 or more receive aid in the amount of \$200 per year for each full-time student carrying 12 or more credit hours. If adopted, Bismarck Junior College would be the first to receive state aid. It presently enrolled about 400. The State's only other junior college at Devils Lake had under 100 enrolled.

September, 1961

A formal Memorandum of Agreement between the University of North Dakota and Williston School District #1 was signed on the 19th day of September, 1961. The University agreed to provide the following: (a) supervision and administration; (b) instruction; (c) laboratory and library supplies; (d) general program of collegiate instruction and activities; (e) custody and transmittal of all records. The School District would provide space, heating and lighting, and equipment. The Director of the University of North Dakota Extension Division shall be responsible for programs.

November, 1961

The citizens of Williston School District #1 voted in favor of a three mill levy support for the University Center. The vote favored the mill levy passage 1,472 to 100.

September, 1962

The University Foundation at Williston was founded. The mission of this new non-profit corporation was to benefit higher education in Williston. The first board consisted of the following members: Dr. Willard Wright, President; Dr. E. J. Hagan, Vice-President; W. S. Davidson, Secretary-Treasurer; Leonard Havig; S. A. Forseth; Arley Bjella; and Dr. George Starcher.

December, 1964

The Russell Report was completed by Dr. John Dale Russell. Dr. Russell stated that in his judgment the Williston Center should be set on its own feet and organized under existing North Dakota laws as a local public junior college independent of immediate control by the University of North Dakota.

June, 1965

The voters of Williston School District #1 voted in favor (650 for, 221 against) of a permissive bond issue for \$350,000. The District also received a federal community college grant for \$251,384 to build a facility at Williston. The local fund drive raised \$409,420. The projected cost of the facility was approximately \$950,000.

September, 1966

The first full-time resident director for the Williston Center was appointed. The General Extension Division was no longer responsible for the programs. This responsibility was transferred to the Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of North Dakota.

May, 1967

The Memorandum of Agreement between the University of North Dakota and Williston School District #1 was amended. This amended agreement declared that the Director of the Williston Center would be responsible for the program and in turn would be responsible to the President of the University of North Dakota.

September, 1967

The college moved to its new campus. The new campus consisted of 80 acres of land and an administrative, classroom and laboratory building.

May, 1970

Memorandum of Agreement between the University of North Dakota and Williston School District #1 was amended changing the title of C.E.O. at Williston Center from Director to Dean, who would be responsible to the President of the University of North Dakota.

September, 1970

The University Foundation built a dormitory on campus to house 60 students.

September, 1972

The University Foundation provided a new building, named the Art Wood Building, to house auto mechanics and diesel technology.

September, 1973

The University Foundation built an addition on the dormitory to house 24 students.

September, 1974

Bond sale funded the construction of a student center addition to the Main Building, an addition to the dormitory for 24 students, and allowed UND-Williston to purchase original dormitory from the University Foundation.

September, 1976

The University Foundation built a housing unit on campus to house 16 female students.

September, 1976

The University Foundation provided a new building, named the Crighton Building, to house the expanded diesel technology program.

October, 1978

Memorandum from the North Dakota Attorney General's Office to the Commissioner of Higher Education which clarified the status of the University of North Dakota-Williston Center and its staff. The quote is as follows: "Under the terms of such agreement, it is this writer's opinion that the Board of Higher Education, acting through the University of North Dakota, has complete jurisdiction and responsibility over all activities, programs, and personnel at the Williston Center."

September, 1979

Bond sale funded the construction of two four-plex housing units on campus and allowed the purchase of the 16 bed female residence from the University Foundation.

November, 1980

The voters of Williams County approved a four (4) mill levy for the support of UND-Williston.

January, 1981

Senate Bill 2404 was introduced by Representative Steve Hughes and Senator Robert Melland, passed by Forty-Seventh Legislative Assembly. This bill established the Higher Education Study Commission. The first priority of this commission is a study of the state's junior colleges as to function, curriculum areas, and placement within the state system of higher education.

February, 1981

Letter from Senator Evan E. Lips, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee: "State Aid for Junior Colleges will no longer be on a joint basis; but rather, considerations be made institution by institution. . . We recognize that this would amount to a Legislative intent that UND-Williston be considered a state agency under the control of the Board of Higher Education."

February, 1981

State Board of Higher Education met with Williston School District Board and University Foundation at Dickinson to discuss Memorandum of Agreement. State Board of Higher Education passed motion to "strengthen that relationship. It is the intention of the Board, therefore, to participate in or to conduct a study over the next biennium to the end of arranging specific recommendations to the next session of the legislation."

April, 1983

Senate Bill was pre-filed as a Higher Education Study Commission bill. Signed into law by Governor Allen Olson on April 15, 1983. This legislation placed the junior colleges and educational centers in the state system of higher education under the State Board of Higher Education, effective July 1, 1984.

November, 1984

The voters of North Dakota defeated an initiated measure which would have returned the three junior colleges at Bismarck, Devils Lake and Williston back to local control. The votes supported retaining state control by 63%.

July, 1988

University of North Dakota President Dr. Tom Clifford changed the title of the C.E.O. at UND-Williston from Dean to Executive Dean.

August, 1994

The University Foundation constructed a 7,000 square foot addition to the west end of the Crighton Building to house the physical therapy assistant program, the licensed practical nursing program, offices for these programs, and an interactive video network lab. It also built a 1,750 square foot addition on the east end of the Crighton Building for additional lab space for the diesel technology program.

January, 1999

House Bill 1443 was introduced in the 37th Legislative session which changed the name of UND-Williston to Williston State College. This bill also designated Williston State College as the primary provider of workforce training for ten counties in northwest North Dakota. This bill was passed by both the House and the Senate and signed by the Governor of North Dakota.

January, 1999

House Bill 1022 was introduced which provided \$1.5 million for the construction of a health and wellness center at UND-Williston. This bill was passed by both the House and Senate and signed by Governor Edward Schafer.