



The Nittany CHB

Volume XXI—No. 13

THE BEHREND CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

January 23, 1970



University President
Dr. Eric A. Walker

Walker Talks On Growth Of University

Statement by Dr. Eric A. Walker, President, The Pennsylvania State University:

"As the land-grant university of the Commonwealth, Penn State throughout its history conscientiously has attempted to absorb its fair share of Pennsylvania's college-going population. Moreover, it has always been an State's policy that once a student was admitted to the University, the University would guarantee him the opportunity to complete the educational pursuit of his choosing.

But as Penn State continues to admit an additional 2,000 students each year, the hard fact of the matter is that it is beginning to run out of space at the University Park Campus to educate the growing number of juniors and seniors we see coming up through the system.

Without contingent plans for an increased upper-divisional capacity such as we make public today, the University would soon be forced to turn a number of our students away after the first two years of their educational pursuits.

This, we believe, would be an unconscionable act, certainly not keeping with the philosophy and mission of the land-grant university.

The people of Erie have been generous in their support of the Behrend Campus. We at Penn State trust we will continue to merit their support as we move the Behrend Campus forward to broaden the educational horizons of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Coming

PETER SEGAL

and

DEBORAH COOK

Saturday, January 31

8 p. m. Reed Lecture Hall

Behrend Expanded To 4-Year School Starting Fall Term '70

University Park, Pa., Jan. 22—The Pennsylvania State University will expand the freshman-sophomore academic offerings at the Behrend Campus in Erie to upper-class programs this Fall.

This was announced today in Erie by Kenneth L. Holderman, director of Commonwealth Campuses at the University.

Mr. Holderman, representing University President Eric A. Walker, said spaces have been reserved for 100 juniors to begin their final two years of undergraduate education at Behrend in September.

Mr. Holderman also said a second

class of 100-to-150 juniors is planned for the campus in 1971-72 and noted that by 1975 it has been projected Behrend's full-time undergraduate enrollment, currently 1,020 may well be tripled.

In a statement issued from University Park to coincide with the Erie announcement, Dr. Walker said:

"As the land-grant university of the Commonwealth, Penn State has throughout its existence conscientiously attempted to absorb its share of Pennsylvania's college-going population.

"But, as Penn State continues

to admit an additional 2,000 students each year, the hard fact of the matter is that it is beginning to run out of space at the University Park campus to educate the growing number of juniors and seniors we see coming up through the system.

"Without plans such as we make public today, the University would soon be forced to turn a number of our students away after the first two years of their academic pursuits. This, we believe, would be an unconscionable act, certainly not in keeping with the philosophy and mission of the

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Behrend Campus Director
Irvin H. Kochel

Behrend Plays Vital Role In Community

Statement by Irvin H. Kochel, Director of the Behrend Campus:

"A new era of higher education becomes available to the citizens of Northwestern Pennsylvania with the addition of upper-division work at the Behrend Campus of The Pennsylvania State University. The availability of University courses to citizens of northwestern Pennsylvania has been of vital concern for some time, and especially in recent years.

"We, of course, are most grateful that within the Penn State Commonwealth Campus System, the Behrend Campus is the first Campus to offer lower-division, upper-division and graduate study programs. The generosity of the Behrends, the support of the Erie community over the last twenty years, the advice and counsel of the Behrend Campus Advisory Board members, as well as the development of its faculty, all played a vital role in the adding of this new dimension in higher education to the citizens of northwestern Pennsylvania.

"This action is, indeed, a vote of confidence for the bright future for the Erie community in the 70's. We hope to continue to play a vital role in the growth and development of this community through the continued education of its youth and the continuing education of its adults."



From 152 students in 1948 to nearly 1,100 students in 1969, the Behrend Campus has come a long way.

History Shows Our Campus Indebted to the Erie Community

The Behrend Campus of The Pennsylvania State University was conceived 22 years ago but its birthright dates back to the early 1920's and the concern about education in Erie County.

Set in the scenic countryside of Northwestern Pennsylvania, the Campus is located on a 420-acre plot of land donated to Penn State in 1948 by Mrs. Mary E. Behrend, widow of Ernest Behrend, founder of the Hammermill Paper Co.

The Behrend Campus opened its doors that year to a class of 152 freshmen. Today it enrolls approximately 1,020 full-time students in undergraduate degree programs.

The first pages of the Behrend story were written in 1920 when Penn State launched a cooperative program with the Erie Vocational School to offer three-year courses in shop and steam engineering and sheet metal work.

That first cooperative class numbered 600 and doubled in size by 1922. In 1926, Penn State opened an Erie Branch School with 100 students enrolled in three-year programs in mining and engineering.

Between 1926 and 1930, the first full-time director of the fledging off-campus school system was named at Erie and the pioneer program truly came of age in the community shortly after World War II.

Acting on the request of concerned civic leaders sparked by the late J. Elmer Reed, and pre-

sented with the gift from Mrs. Behrend, the University agreed to locate a two-year campus in Erie County.

The Behrend Campus is a Penn State campus educating Penn State students in Penn State courses taught by Penn State faculty. Students at Behrend are expected to maintain the same degrees of academic excellence as those on the main campus at University Park.

The Behrend program was developed through the years to provide educational instruction in all of the University's ten undergraduate colleges ranging from the liberal arts to the sciences.

In 1953, armed with the knowledge that World War II had precipitated vast changes in American

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