

College Prepares 20,000 For Technical Jobs In Defense Industries

EDT Classes Given Throughout State

With the nation's defense program growing daily, the College, through its extension services, has had an increasingly important part in the vital phase of training thousands of men for defense jobs in industry.

Already nearly 20,000 men and women have been trained or are now taking courses given by the College under the sponsorship of the U. S. Office of Education. Fifty class centers have been established for the Engineering Defense Training program, and 98 for a special introductory engineering subjects program in which 3,200 recent high school graduates are enrolled.

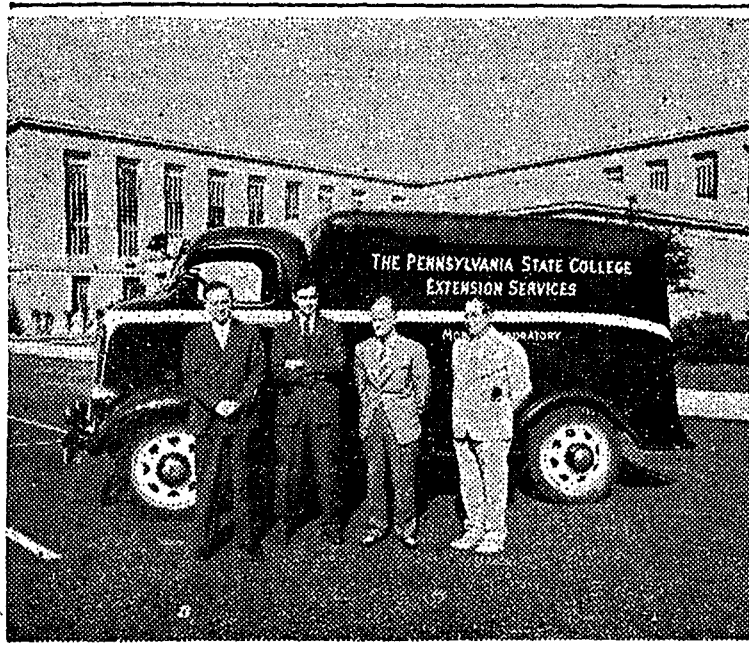
When the full impact of America's huge defense effort was felt last winter, the government called upon colleges throughout the nation to train men for technical jobs in industry. Penn State's extension services under J. O. Keller, assistant to the president in charge of extension has available instructors, materials, classrooms, laboratories, and equipment.

As a result, the College was assigned the largest single quota of trainees under the federal-financed plan. Within a short time, more than 8,800 men were enrolled in nighttime classes in 38 industrial centers of the state.

Eventually, this number grew to 10,000 men trained in more than 400 different classes. They met three hours a night, three nights a week, for 24 weeks. Still later, in February, classes in pre-foremanship for production supervision were offered on a 16-week basis to more than 1,000 men in 32 centers.

For the first part of the program, the College had to hire approximately 400 part-time instructors plus an administrator for each center. This program was about one-third as great as the combined program of the 98 other participating colleges and universities in the country but it was still not the complete contribution.

There came word of a shortage of other types of technically-trained workers. Men were needed to fit themselves for positions such as tool designers, engineer-



Laboratory On Wheels— Two "autolabs" are being used by the College extension services to show experiments in physics and chemistry to students taking courses under the emergency defense education program. Shown above is the physics laboratory truck which carries equipment for more than three dozen experiments. It is traveling to 98 towns and cities in Pennsylvania to permit lecture demonstrations to be given to the public and 3,200 recent high school graduates taking introductory engineering subjects. In front of the truck, left to right, are Dr. Harold K. Schilling, assistant professor of physics and lecturer on the tour; Lyle Redrup, of Franklin Institute, and Fred Tracy, of the College physics department, assistants to the lecturers; and Dr. Harry L. Van Velzer, assistant professor of physics, lecturer.

ing draftsmen, metallurgical workers, operations inspectors and similar jobs. Again Penn State was called upon—this time for the job of urging high school graduates back to school for 10 weeks to receive elementary engineering training.

About this same time, the College enrolled 4,000 men in industry for a similar night program in the Pittsburgh area. These were not high school but men and women who wanted to take special work designed to equip them for better jobs in defense industries.

Today, more than 2,000 of the total of nearly 20,000 persons have been put to work in defense industries and more are being placed daily, according to Dr. Joseph W. Bird, in charge of placement. Over 600 are on Civil-Service lists, he said, adding that many of these have gotten jobs in arsenals, at airports, and in similar government agencies.

Campus Activities Center Around Student Union

The hub of all extra-curricular activities at Penn State—that's Student Union.

Student Union was founded on the campus in 1930. Since that time it has proved to be invaluable as a coordinating agency for activities.

The agency works by means of recommendations, has no legislative power, and is not supervisory. Representatives from each of the major activities comprise the Student Union Board.

Student Union is managed by George L. Donovan. In addition to coordinating activities, it serves as an information desk, maintains a lost and found service, sells tickets for social activities, and performs innumerable other functions.

High School Graduates Know Their Physics

Pennsylvania high school graduates who enrolled in summer courses offered by the College as part of the Engineering Defense Training program ranked 10 points higher in physics than a comparable group from the midwest.

These figures, released by Dr. Marsh W. White, physics supervisor of the summer work, were based on 560 tests selected from 3,200 students enrolled in introductory engineering subjects.

The superior mathematical background of the Pennsylvania students was probably responsible for their high marks, Dr. White reported.

'45 Student Wins Prize

David Robison '45 won first place in the Hobson Pitman art exhibit on the campus during the summer. His winning entry was titled "Centre County Landscape."

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