



News from

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK


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Mr. Porter R. Chandler, chairman of the Board of Higher Education, and Dr. Albert H. Bowker, chancellor of The City University of New York, today (2/1) announced that a new two-year experimental college, now designated as Community College Number VII, will be located in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn, and will be opened in September 1969, if the necessary clearances from city and state authorities can be promptly secured.

Mr. Chandler and Dr. Bowker, in making the announcement to public officials and community leaders assembled at Borough Hall in the Civic Center of Brooklyn at the invitation of Borough President Abe Stark, joined in expressing appreciation to the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, to Borough President Stark, to Mayor Lindsay, to Senators Kennedy and Javits, and to community agencies and leaders for their concerned involvement in the discussions leading to the decision to establish the new college in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area.

In his announcement, Chancellor Bowker said, "The Board of Higher Education recently authorized the City University to take an adventurous and exciting step forward in college-level education, with a new, experimental two-year college, to be established on a community-oriented basis in central Brooklyn. We are today announcing that the site of the new college will be in or near Bedford-Stuyvesant.

 "This proposed two-year college in Bedford-Stuyvesant is designed to be a long step forward in community-oriented education for high school graduates. The focus of enrollment will be on the disadvantaged, but we hope to attract the advantaged also.

W. J. Coy
"For the trail-blazing college, we are recommending -- and the board has informally agreed to take advantage of -- the preliminary studies, planning, consultation, and organizational work done in and by various groups in the Bedford-Stuyvesant community, notably the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, but also the Central Brooklyn Coordinating Council, and Youth in Action."

The projected new college was approved in principle by the Board of Higher Education on November 27, 1967, and approval has been requested of the Board of Regents and the Trustees of the State University of New York.

Like all community colleges in the state, Community College Number VII would be operated under the program of the State University of New York, the state contributing one-third of the operating costs and one-half of the capital costs. Dr. Bowker said that he expected that federal and private funds would be available to underwrite a substantial portion of the operating and capital costs. It is estimated that the cost of operating the college in 1968-69 will be \$635,000, and in 1969-70, \$850,000.

The report blueprinting the college defines the new institution as "a comprehensive community college offering general, university-transfer, and occupational education programs." It is also to stress adult and continuing education for residents of its community and to be located in or near a poverty area and experimental in relating its services to that community. The college is to open in 1969 with 500 students and to grow to 5,000 by 1980.

The community college, while it is located in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area, will serve other areas of Brooklyn, including the Williamsburg section, Greenpoint, Bushwick, Fort Greene, Brownsville, and East New York. Its location is also readily accessible to Queens communities.

Dr. Bowker said that in addition to the board's long-time consideration of the higher education needs of the Central Brooklyn area, impetus for this undertaking has recently come from the Education Affiliate of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Development Program sponsored by the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation and the Bedford-Stuyvesant Development and Services Corporation. This organization has developed plans and concepts paralleling the basic philosophy underlying Community College Number VII.

The new college will differ from the present six City University community colleges in four ways:

1. Students will be admitted to a common first semester and make a choice of a specific career or transfer program after that semester's guidance and experience.
2. The college will be located in or on the fringes of a poverty area, its major orientation being to meet "the challenges of providing disadvantaged students with post-high school training."
3. The college will assume a major responsibility for community service related to the special needs of the area in which it is located. That will include working with local businesses and government agencies in providing career-ladder training on or near job sites.
4. Admission will not be based solely on high school performance as measured by grades and scholastic aptitude test. The college will seek "wholly new admissions standards which do not penalize students for poor choices or poor performance in high school."
