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THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
535 East Eightieth Street
New York, New York 10021

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Statement by
Chancellor Albert H. Bowker

Announcing Establishment of
New Community College in
Bedford-Stuyvesant

February 1, 1968 -- 11 pm
Borough Hall, Brooklyn, N.Y.

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, AND THAT IT WILL BE ORIENTED TO THE
BEDFORD-STUYVESANT COMMUNITY AND WILL BE OPERATED IN CONSULTATION
WITH THE COMMUNITY.

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. FOR THIS PARTICULAR COLLEGE WE HAVE RECEIVED PLEDGES OF FEDERAL AND FOUNDATION GRANTS TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENTAL OPERATING COSTS AMOUNTING TO ABOUT HALF THE COST FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS.

THE PROPOSED NEW BEDFORD-STUYVESANT COLLEGE WILL BE ORIENTED TOWARD THE NEIGHBORING COMMUNITY -- THE TOTAL COMMUNITY. IT WILL HAVE A COMMUNITY BOARD. IT WILL BE ROOTED IN THE GHETTO COMMUNITY, BUT WILL EMBRACE AND HAVE ACCESS TO, THE TOTAL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE FACULTY OF THIS NEW COLLEGE WILL KNOW THAT THEY MUST RELATE TO THE COMMUNITY, [REDACTED], AS WELL, OF COURSE, AS TO THE CITY UNIVERSITY AS A WHOLE, AND TO THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

THE PRESIDENT, AND THE FACULTY, WILL NEED ALSO TO RELATE TO THE STUDENT BODY, ABOVE ALL.

SOMETIMES, IN SOME EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, THE STUDENTS ARE THE FORGOTTEN FOLK, ALMOST LOST IN THE SYSTEM.

IN THIS INSTITUTION THEY ARE HOPEFULLY TO BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE SYSTEM, IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE PLANNING, IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE TEACHING, IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE GOALS, PURPOSES, AND OPERATIONS OF THE COLLEGE.

THE BOARD OF REGENTS, AND THE TRUSTEES OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY, AND THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AS WELL AS THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY, WILL NEED TO BE REASSURED, OF COURSE, THAT COLLEGE LEVEL EDUCATION IS GOING ON AND THAT THE GRADUATES OF THE COLLEGE WILL BE NOT SECOND CLASS, BUT FIRST CLASS GRADUATES OF A FIRST CLASS INSTITUTION.

MR. FRANK THOMAS OF THE BEDFORD-STUYVESANT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, ALONG WITH THE WELL-KNOWN EDUCATOR, DR. WILLIAM BIRENBAUM, FORMERLY OF LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY IN BROOKLYN, HAVE PROVIDED GREAT STIMULUS AND WISE COUNSEL IN OUR PLANNING WORK BASED ON THEIR OWN WORK.

SENATORS KENNEDY AND JAVITTS AND THEIR ASSOCIATES IN THE BEDFORD-STUYVESANT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, INCLUDING MR. WILLIAM PALEY, AND MR. DOUGLAS DILLON, HAVE PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLES IN OUR CONSIDERATION OF THIS UNDERTAKING.

MAYOR LINDSAY AND OTHER OFFICIALS IN THE CITY GOVERNMENT HAVE ENDORSED AND SUPPORTED THE BASIC IDEA OF NEIGHBORHOOD ORIENTED EXPERIMENTAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES EPITOMIZED BY THE PROPOSED UNIT IN BEDFORD-STUYVESANT.

WE EXPECT TO BUILD UPON WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM OUR SEEK PROGRAM AND OUR COLLEGE DISCOVERY PROGRAM AND OTHER PROGRAMS IN WHICH WE HAVE WORKED WITH THE DISADVANTAGED.

THE STUDENTS IN THIS NEW COLLEGE WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN TECHNOLOGIES, VOCATIONS, AND PROFESSIONS.

THEY CAN ALSO FOLLOW THE COLLEGE TRACK INTO ONE OF OUR SENIOR COLLEGES. ON APPROPRIATE GRADUATION FROM THIS COLLEGE, THEY WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY TRANSFERRABLE AND ADMISSABLE INTO ONE OF OUR SENIOR COLLEGES, AS MATRICULATED STUDENTS SEEKING ONE OF THE REGULAR COLLEGE DEGREES.

THAT INVOLVES HAVING A FIRST CLASS PRESIDENT, FIRST CLASS DEANS, AND A FIRST CLASS FACULTY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS WILL MEAN A FIRST CLASS STUDENT BODY, AND A FIRST CLASS COLLEGE.

THIS WILL BE THE FIRST OF THESE NEW EXPERIMENTAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES. THE BOARD HAS AUTHORIZED ADDITIONAL EXPERIMENTAL COLLEGES, AND I SHALL RECOMMEND A SECOND SUCH COLLEGE SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH BRONX.

FOR THE TRAIL-BLAZING BEDFORD-STUYVESANT 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 DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BUT ALSO THE CENTRAL BROOKLYN COORDINATING COUNCIL, AND YOUTH IN ACTION.

THERE ARE EDUCATIONAL AND POLICY AND BUDGETARY CLEARANCES TO BE SECURED FROM THE STATE UNIVERSITY AND SITE CLEARANCES TO BE SECURED FROM THE CITY GOVERNMENT. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO SECURE ALL THESE CLEARANCES IN THE DAYS AHEAD. WE HOPE AND ARE PLANNING TO ENROLL STUDENTS AND START CLASSES IN A TEMPORARY LOCATION IN SEPTEMBER, 1969 IF WE GET THE NECESSARY APPROVALS TO GET INTO DEVELOPMENT IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

MANY DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS HAVE PLAYED PARTS AND ARE A PART OF THIS NEW AND CHALLENGING UNDERTAKING.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT STARK HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN PRESSING US FOR, AND THEN FACILITATING OUR DECISION.

OTHER PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE NEW COLLEGE ARE CONTAINED IN THE FACT SHEET WHICH WAS PREPARED AND MADE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION HERE TODAY. THAT FACT SHEET, IN TURN, WAS ABSTRACTED FROM AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION CONTAINING THE PLANNING FOR ALL THE NEW EXPERIMENTAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES WHICH HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED.

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WE ARE AT THE THRESHOLD OF NEW ADVENTURES WITH THIS NEW EXPERIMENTAL COLLEGE. WE HOPE TO LEARN MUCH FROM THE STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY, EVEN WHILE WE TEACH.

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