

Charlotte. Colleges & Universities
Charlotte College (also Carver)

Presentation by Oliver A. Rowe, Chairman,
Finance Committee, Charlotte Community
College System
Chairman of the Education Committee
on October 2, 1960

The Trustees of Charlotte Community College System are asking the people of
Mecklenburg County to pass a \$975,000 bond issue on November 8th, - to invest in the
greatest bargain that has ever been offered in Mecklenburg County in the field of higher
education.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION

The Education Committee recommends to the Executive Committee that the
Board of Directors of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce formally endorse
the \$975,000 Community College System bond issue to be voted on November
8, 1960, and further, that the Board through every means available wage a
vigorous campaign to point out to all the citizens of Mecklenburg County
the vital importance of passing this bond issue.

The many sound reasons for the above Resolution are contained in the
presentation made by Mr. Oliver Rowe, Chairman of the Finance Committee of
The Charlotte Community Colleges, a copy of which is attached.

Oct. 20, 1960

presentation by Oliver R. Rowe, Chairman,
Finance Committee, Charlotte Community
College System to:
Chamber of Commerce Education Committee
on October 5, 1960

The Trustees of Charlotte Community College System are asking the people of Mecklenburg County to pass a \$975,000 bond issue on November 8th, - to invest in the greatest bargain that has ever been offered to Mecklenburg County in the field of higher education.

Due to the relatively small appropriations of money for community colleges by the State - and its availability on a matching basis every two years, - it is necessary that we come to our County and ask for a bond issue every two years.

No one should get the idea that this bond issue will complete the building of the two colleges; - but rather it is better for everyone to understand that we are on a planned schedule of building - a step at a time - a little step every two years. - And the people of Mecklenburg County will be asked for a modest bond issue every two years.

It may be well - to review the money previously appropriated by the State and the County for this College System.

From the 1957 State appropriations -----	\$575,000.
From Mecklenburg County bond issue of 1958 -----	\$975,000.

At first the State did not expect to match funds spent for land - which accounts for the local bond issue being \$400,000. larger than the State appropriations.

In 1959, we requested additional money from the State. They allocated us \$700,000. and lifted the restriction on matching money spent for land.

From this allocation we can draw additional funds to complete the matching of the first local bond money in amount of ----- \$400,000.

Making a total of money available for the first construction program of-\$1,950,000.

This money will take care of the purchase of land and the construction of the first two buildings on each campus. This is as far as we can go on the first local bond issue of \$975,000. with 100% matching funds from the State.

The \$975,000. requested in the next local bond issue will be matched by the State - thus doubling our money - and giving us another \$1,950,000. for construction.

For this money we expect to construct the following buildings:

FOR CARVER COLLEGE:

Student Center -----	\$119,000.
Technical and Industrial Building -----	81,000.
Library -----	195,000.
Business Education & Fine Arts. -----	<u>180,000</u>
Total -----	\$575,000.

FOR CHARLOTTE COLLEGE:

Student Center	\$375,000.
Roads, Landscaping & Parking Areas	69,000.
Library	493,000.
Fine Arts Building	270,000.
Administration Building	128,000.
Maintenance Building	<u>40,000.</u>
Total -----	\$1,375,000.

Total for System ----- \$1,950,000.

This will bring the total capacity of the two colleges up to 1,740 students - ready for occupancy September, 1962.

According to best estimates, there will be 2,000 qualified students applying for entrance at that time, - many more than we will have room for.

After Second Building Step - September, 1962:

	<u>CARVER</u>	<u>CHARLOTTE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Student capacity	540	1,200	1,740
Qualified Applicants	600	1,400	2,000

What does the investment of this money mean to the people in Mecklenburg County?

For a hundred and ninety years the people in Mecklenburg have felt the need for - and have wanted - a tax supported college - for the education of their young people. The first attempt - a college actually operated here - 190 years ago - was crushed by a withdrawal of the charter by the King of England.

All other attempts of establishing a State supported college here - in the most populous area of the State - have died "a-borning."

Nowhere on the State's political horizon - is there a glimmer of a possibility - of establishing here - a branch of the University System or any other large State supported college or, a Medical School or even a School of Science and Engineering.

It is just about a foregone conclusion that the State is not going to come into this area and set up a State College in full bloom.

But we do have an opportunity now - through proper nurturing of this Community College - to make grow in Mecklenburg County - a College System to fill our every need - in the field of Higher Education.

Step by step we can accomplish what 190 years of effort and hope have failed to do.

The investment of this money - "less than a million dollars" by our County is - a taking of the "second step" - in that direction.

But it is vitally important that we not falter on any one of these steps. We are developing a pattern of working with the State on this program.

Many of the members of the Legislature and of the Governor's Budget Commission and of the Board of Higher Education are becoming convinced of the great need for a publicly supported college in this area.

And they are going along with us - and working with us - but they expect us here in Mecklenburg to supply the motivation and the drive.

If we should ever falter - by failing to pass one local bond issue for this college program - the jig would be up, - and years of work toward pointing this little Community College movement - toward becoming a great College System - would just about "go down the drain."

What else does the investment of this money mean to the people of Mecklenburg?

The investment of this "less than a million dollars" by the County will enable the two colleges to accommodate 1,740 students.

If these students were sent away to boarding type colleges - it would cost the parents for each of them - \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year. - Whereas, if they lived at home and went to the Charlotte College System - where the tuition is around \$210. a year, - these parents would save at least \$1,100. to \$1,200. a year on each student. The total saving to parents on 1,740 students would be over \$2,000,000. every year.

The parents would save every year there - after not only the full amount of this proposed bond issue, but the full amount of the last bond issue as well.

Nowhere else in the whole world can you invest this money and get it back so quickly - and keep on getting it back over and over and over again every year there-after.

Of course, this low cost college education results in thousands of our best young people getting a college education - whose parents could not afford to send them away to a boarding type college.

And therein lies the greatest single economic advantage to Mecklenburg County, - the advantage of getting these extra thousands of people educated. The value in dollars and cents would run into astronomical figures - that I - am unable to calculate.

There is another reason too - besides the tremendous return in money - for investing this "less than a million" of County funds:

Consider the expected increase in college enrollment. The enrollment in colleges is expected to more than double during the 60's. It is admitted that our colleges cannot take care of this increase.

Already our colleges are running over. Davidson had 1,150 applications this year and was able to take only 225.

Queens College had to turn away 66 qualified applicants.

With Mecklenburg being the most "under-colleged" area in the State, - we need to build up our capacity in the Charlotte College System to fortify ourselves against this shortage of capacity.

Unless we can find some way to build capacity into this College System faster

than we are now going, - many Mecklenburg citizens are going to find it impossible to get their children in college at all.

I hope we don't have to wait until that day comes - to sell the people in Mecklenburg County on the soundness of this proposition.

The people in Mecklenburg are just as intelligent and as enlightened and as ambitious for their children and for this community as any people in this country.

If we could ever bring to their attention - the true facts about the potential of this college movement - they would not only back us up - but they would want to know why we move into this most wonderful opportunity at a snail's pace.

They would want to know why we tie our program - entirely to what we can get from the State in matching funds, - when an investment in this College System now - even without matching State funds - will be returned to us anyway - in two years - and many times over in the years thereafter.

I referred to a snail's pace. We are asking our county for about a million dollars every two years - and the State for the same amount every two years, which enables us to build at the rate of about one million dollars a year.

We could not catch up with enrollment demands - at this rate - if we kept at it for 20 years. The speed of the building program needs to be doubled.

I hope that when we carry this college proposition to the public-that we do more- than just ask them to vote on this modest bond issue.

I hope the public can be made aware of the full potential of this college movement - for I am sure that if they know the whole story - they will demand that we take a bigger step forward next time.