

## **Lake Region State College**

### **Policy and Procedure Manual**

---

#### SECTION 100.01

##### BRIEF HISTORY

Lake Region State College was born of the junior college movement that began during the 1930's. The Depression made the cost of attending distant colleges prohibitive. Lawmakers recognized the need for educational access and began implementing legislation supportive of community-based junior colleges. By 1940 any public school district could establish a junior college.

The Devils Lake Public School District was quick to act. In the fall of 1941 the Devils Lake Junior College and Business School was officially established in accordance with the new legislation. Thirty-eight students were enrolled that first year, and classes were held in the Pershing Building attached to the high school. The College developed gradually over the next two decades into a small, junior college with a liberal arts orientation supplemented by a few business courses.

The College was entirely financed by local taxation and tuition revenues until 1960. At that time the North Dakota legislature began granting state aid on a per-student basis to junior colleges which met the standards of the State Board of Higher Education and enrolled one hundred or more students. The availability of state funds triggered a dramatic change in the Institution's mission and scope. The Community College Foundation tackled the task of increasing enrollment to a level that would allow access to state funding by raising money for student scholarships. The academic-transfer program was expanded and improved to meet standards which would enable students to transfer their credits to baccalaureate degree programs in most four-year colleges and universities. A variety of vocational-technical programs was introduced in response to changing regional economic needs.

These changes led to enrollment growth, and suitable classroom space soon became difficult to find. A building program was inevitable. The College moved to its present campus in 1966 -- a one-story, two building complex. Since then there have been several additions to the original structures. Housing for students with families was constructed (Gilliland Hall), and a new vocational workshop complex was commissioned in 1977 (Erlandson Building).

Throughout its colorful history, Lake Region State College has had several names, each reflecting a different time and focus. In 1963 the name was changed from "Devils Lake" to "Lake Region" Junior College to emphasize the regional focus of its educational services. In 1981 the name was changed again. This time the word "junior" was changed to "community" to read Lake Region Community College. The "community college" designation more clearly identified the Institution's mission -- to provide academic-transfer programs, vocational-technical programs, and community education programs.

On July 1, 1984, following a state-wide referendum vote, the College became a full member of the State system of higher education. For a two-year transition period the College was placed under supervision of the North Dakota State College of Science.

Management was then assigned to the University of North Dakota, and the College was renamed University of North Dakota-Lake Region in April, 1987.

On July 1, 1999 UND-Lake Region became Lake Region State College. The governor signed a bill changing the governance of the College to independent status under the North Dakota University System with a new mission of providing workforce training to the Northeast quadrant of the state.

Lake Region State College is dedicated to serving the educational needs of North Dakotans. It has a special commitment to the people of the Lake Region, an eleven-county area surrounding the city of Devils Lake in northeastern North Dakota. Lake Region State College is accredited by the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges (NCA) and is a member of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges (AACJC).

College programs and services are financed primarily by state funds, supplemented by student tuition and fees and private and public grants and gifts. The Community College Foundation is dedicated to the advancement of the College and uses its resources to support scholarships, construction and curriculum projects, and athletic and staff development programs.

### **Historical Highlights**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1941                | Devils Lake Junior College and Business School established with thirty-eight students registered. The College was located in the Pershing Building, the original high school building constructed in 1914.  |
| 1941                | May 28 – First graduating class: Katherine Genevieve, Margaret Lovelle Woll.  |
| 1941/42-<br>1958/59 | Average annual enrollment for these years was forty-nine students, the highest being seventy-seven full-time students during 1947/48.   |
| 1946/47             | A good model of the College's functioning in the first two decades: There were sixty-three full-time students almost equally divided between business and liberal arts programs. An additional forty-two students were in the aviation program and sixteen students attended night classes. Sixteen students from the St. Mary's Hospital Nurses Training Program took academic courses at the College. |
| 1959                | Community College Corporation established to support development of the college. State aid to two-year colleges was approved at two hundred dollars per full-time student.  |
| 1960                | Permission was received to acquire seventy acres of state-owned land to build a new campus. The College was now known as Lake Region Junior College.  |
| 1965/66             | Enrollment now stood at 305 full-time students. The College moved to its new campus after having held classes in various places, including the Masonic Temple, Mercy Hospital, the vacated Weather Bureau Building, and the American Legion dining room.  |
| 1967/78             | A period of growth and development: Gilliland Hall was built (1973) and the Erlandson Building was added (1977). State aid was increased substantially.   |

- 1981 The college was re-christened Lake Region Community College.
- 1983 The Community College Foundation launched a major fund drive to raise an Endowment Fund by 1986. Contributions and pledges for over 200,000 dollars were received by May 1, 1985. This brings to over one million dollars the contribution of the local community in support of the College since the Foundation was established in 1959.
- 1984 Governance of the College was assumed by the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education.
- 4/2/87 The College was re-named University of North Dakota-Lake Region and established as a branch campus of the University of North Dakota.
- 1991 Lake Region State College's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. See UND-Lake Region 1941-1991; A History, A Mission, A Vision by Doris Greenleaf.
- 9/19/95 Paul Hoghaug Library Renovation completed.
- 11/15/96 Chautauqua Gallery dedication.
- 4/20/97 UND\_LR declared an official state, county, and Red Cross Evacuation Center. More than 4,000 people from Grand Forks made their way to UND-Lake Region to register due to the Grand Forks Red River flood.
- 4/1999 The North Dakota Legislature appropriates a \$500,000 match towards the UND-Lake Region Auditorium Renovation Project. The Community College Foundation raised the other \$500,000 for this one million dollar project.
- 7/1/99 UND-Lake Region was awarded independent status and renamed Lake Region State College. The College was assigned a new mission to provide workforce training for the Northeast quadrant of the state.
- 12/2000 Held a grand-opening for newly refurbished Robert Fawcett Auditorium.
- 2001 Received a ten year re-accreditation from North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.
- 6/30/03 Year-end count of students served was 2,737.
- 4/2004 Held grand opening for Leever's Welcome Center.

### **Chief Executive Officers**

- 1947-59 Mr. F.H. Gilliland, Superintendent – Dean<sup>1</sup>  
 Mr. H.L. Woll, Director of the College (1941-50) and Director of Business School (1941-54)  
 Mr. F.R. McKenna, Director Liberal Arts (1950-51)  
 Mr. N.M. Lillehaugen, Director Liberal Arts (1951-52)  
 Mr. Julian Rolzinski, Director Liberal Arts (1952-58)

1959-67	Mr. Clarence Erlandson, Superintendent-President <sup>2</sup> Mr. F.H. Gilliland, Dean of the College (1959-61) Mr. Richard Davison, Dean of the College (1961-62) Mr. Merrill Berg, Dean of the College (1962-67)
1967-75	Mr. Merrill Berg, President
1975-76	Mr. Clarence Laber, Acting President
1976-79	Dr. Merrill Berg, President
1979-83	Dr. Dennis Michaelis, President
1983-84	Dr. Richard Kunkel, Acting President
1984-85	Dr. William Taylor, President
1985-87	Dr. Claire T. Blikre, President, North Dakota State School of Science Mr. James A. Horton, Executive Dean
1987-92	Dr. Thomas Clifford, President, University of North Dakota
1992-99	Dr. Kendall Baker, President, University of North Dakota Dr. Sharon Etemad, Executive Dean
1999-2008	Dr. Sharon Etemad, President, Lake Region State College
7/1/2008	Dr. Mike Bower, President, Lake Region State College
7/2012	Dr. Doug Darling, Interim President, Lake Region State College

<sup>1</sup> 1941-1967: The Superintendent of the Devils Lake Public School District was the chief executive officer for the College during these years.

<sup>2</sup> In 1967 the administration of the College was assumed by a President reporting to a local Board of Trustees.

---

## History