

THE OLD POST OFFICE • CLASSES IN A CHURCH BASEMENT, GROCERY STORE, POST OFFICE AND A SKATING RINK • WALKING THROUGH MUD AND ON PLYWOOD SIDEWALKS TO GET TO CLASS • CAREER ED • BOOKSTORE JOE • GOLDEN CIRCLE • LAKE JOE BE GONE • FLOWER CHILDREN • IBM SELECTRIC • IVA • MIMEOGRAPH • PIG ROAST • GENERAL ED • STUDENT SIT-IN • AREA IX • THE CAREER TRAILER • QUARTERS • RANDTRIEVER • NUCLEAR WASTE SCARE • TIME CAPSULE • EX-



PRESSIONS MAGAZINE • LAMP OF LEARNING • DUNK TANK • QUEEN CONTEST • TEMPORARY BUILDINGS • TRADEWINDS • GOURMET DINNERS • BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVES • THE BULLETIN • QUALITY CIRCLES • BELL AVENUE • CAREER EDUCATION • VICA • SALARY SCHEDULE • COLLECTIVE BARGAINING • ACCREDITATION • ADVISORY COMMITTEES • GATB TEST • SHARING THE BATHROOM WITH THE GUYS • WHO CONTROLS THE LIGHTS IN THE BUILDING • GROUND BREAKING • SUPPLEMENTAL COURSES • MEDIA CENTER

# DMACC PIONEERS HISTORY COMMITTEE REPORT

DEDICATED TO

**Sharon Eckstrom, DMACC Pioneers President, Deceased**

The DMACC Pioneers History Committee is pleased to provide a report on our activities during the past three years. In 2009 President Rob Denson asked DMACC Pioneers President Sharon Eckstrom if our group would assist in expanding the existing history narratives by asking our members for the recollections from the early days of the institution. Sharon appointed a history committee after receiving approval from the board. Committee members included Carroll Bennett (Chair), Sharon Eckstrom, Dee Johnson, Shirley Muhlenhaller, Verlyn Noring, Mike Perry and Dale Wagner. Lyla Maynard later joined the committee. Breck Danner, Coordinator, Alumni Affairs and Fund Development, DMACC Foundation served as DMACC Staff Liaison.

The purpose of the committee was to collect, compile, summarize and produce an informal history of Des Moines Area Community College with a focus on the years 1966-1976.

## **The objectives were to:**

- Produce an informal history of DMACC based primarily on interviews and written recollections of retired DMACC staff, with primary support for DMACC Pioneers.
- Present the final product in a format that was easily accessible and capable of expansion and updating.
- Involve a number of people, primarily DMACC Pioneers, who had a knowledge and interest in sharing their recollections and perceptions, to add a “personal” dimension from those who “lived” the early history.
- Use a format that could be expanded to include additional information in the future.
  - › One-page individually written recollections of early DMACC employees
  - › Recorded interviews with retired DMACC employees about their recollections
  - › Campus histories
  - › Instructional program histories
  - › Individual papers written by DMACC Pioneers or former staff members

## **The following processes were followed:**

- Reviewed the histories from Leonard Bengston’s year by year summary.
- Read a history prepared for a publication in the 1970s.
- Made the decision to use an electronic format rather than a print format.
- Met periodically as a committee to assign individual assignments, discuss direction and prepare a master plan for the study.
- Reported periodically to the DMACC Pioneer Board, at the “kick off” meeting each fall, and to President Denson.

## **The Committee's recommendations that have been shared with President Denson:**

- The History Committee should continue as a standing committee of the DMACC Pioneers. Our committee accomplished only a part of the total plan. The committee's outline of this plan could provide suggestions for future history committees as they process information for the first ten years of college history.
- The College should consider increasing either the professional staff time to support the project or appoint or contract a professional historian to work with the committee and provide technical assistance.
- A bibliography of documents related to early college history artifacts should be compiled, catalogued and centralized in an archive in a college office.
- The archives of the DMACC Marketing and Public Relations Office and DMACC Board of Directors meeting minutes should be reviewed to collect, catalogue and record early college history.
- The college should define and implement a process for recording the ongoing history of the college and assign responsibility to a college office to coordinate this process.
- The DMACC 50 Year Planning Committee should include at least one representative from the Pioneers History Committee as a resource.

## **Appreciation from the History Committee goes to:**

- **SHARON ECKSTROM**, former Dental Assistant faculty member and former President of the DMACC Pioneers. It was through her foresight and dedication that this project became a reality. Her untimely death occurred during the first year the committee was in operation, but her inspiration and example stimulated the committee and DMACC Pioneers to carry out her wishes.
- **ROB DENSON**, DMACC President, for his vision, interest, encouragement and support of the committee. His recognition of the unique opportunity to involve early DMACC employees in sharing their memories made this project possible, and personally rewarding to our members.
- **BRECK DANNER**, Coordinator, Alumni Affairs and Fund Development, DMACC Foundation, who provided technical assistance and served as a liaison between the committee and the college. Her previous experiences with a similar project at Iowa State University were instrumental in establishing the structure and format of this report, and her boundless energy and leadership was inspiring to each history committee member.
- **EACH DMACC PIONEER** and others who contributed information and recollections to this project.
- **CURRENT DMACC STAFF MEMBERS** who assisted by reviewing the material, providing additional information and supporting the committee's efforts.

The Committee's work can be viewed at

[www.dmacc.edu/pioneers/history](http://www.dmacc.edu/pioneers/history)

Submitted by Carroll L. Bennett,  
Chair DMACC History Committee, on behalf of the committee.