First Commencement at DMACC (Area XI)

Compiled by Judith Vogel

Information and photos taken from an original DMACC Commencement program

Area XI Community College, now known as Des Moines Area Community College, held its first Commencement program on Thursday, February 22, 1968. The college was under the direction of Superintendent Paul Lowery. Students had taken classes in a former West Des Moines grocery store. The administration offices were in the old Ankeny Post Office. The ceremony began with a Processional. Following the Invocation by the Reverend Leonard Lee, Minister of the East Ankeny Baptist Church, Superintendent Lowery introduced Mr. James Maggert, President of the Board of Directors for Area XI Community College, for the main address.

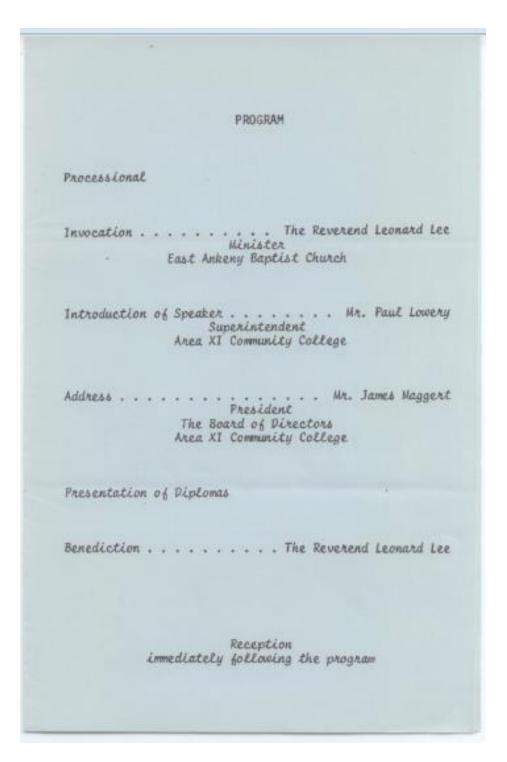
Graduates were awarded degrees in four areas:

Clerical –	Miss Patricia Louise Greig, West Des Moines
Secretarial –	Miss Marcia Lynn May, Grimes
	Mrs. Jeanne A. Davis, Des Moines
	Mrs. Rachel Theresa Caruthers, Des Moines
Medical Assistant –	Mrs. Carole F. Janes, Carlisle
	Miss Mary Joanne Mitchell, Des Moines
Electrical Drafting -	Mr. James C. Brockey, Des Moines
	Mr. Patrick Harrison, Des Moines
	Mr. Neville B. Mangra, Des Moines
	Mr. Francis M. McLey, Woodward
	Mr. Paul Wicks, Adel
	Mr. Thomas J. Trunnel, Prairie City

After the presentation of the diplomas, Rev. Lee gave the benediction. A reception for the graduates, their families and friends, and the faculty and staff of the college followed the Commencement program.

(See photos of the original Area XI Community College Commencement program, a group photo of the first graduates of Area XI College, and a brief bio of one graduate below.)





GRADUATES

CLERICAL

Miss Patricia Louise Greig 2201 Vine Street west Des Moines, Iowa

SECRETARIAL

Miss Marcia Lymn May Mrs. Jeanne A. Davis Camp Dodge Grimes, Iowa

3421 School Street Des Maines, Iowa

Mrs. Rachel Theresa Caruthers 17 S. E. Livingston Street Dez Moines, Iosa

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Mrs. Carole F. Janes 210 North 5th. Street Cartisle, Towa

Miss Mary Joanne Mitchell 214 Bayon Street Laurens, Iowa

ELECTRICAL DRAFTING

Mr. James C. Brockey 1444 46th. Street Des Moines, Iowa

Mr. Patrick Harrison 4812 Hillcrest Drive Des Moines, Inva

Mr. Neville 8. Mangra 1427 10th. Street Des Moines, Iowa

Mr. Francis M. Mcley Rural Route 1 Woodward, Iowa

Mr. Paul Wicks Rural Route 3 Adel. Icua

Mr. Thomas J. Trunnel Prairie City, Iowa



Picture was taken February 22, 1968 and reprinted for the 10th Anniversary of DMACC in 1976. Contributed to this article by the DMACC Library Archives. Original source thought to be an Ankeny local newspaper.

Neville Mangra, one of the first graduates, was originally from British Guyana. After arriving in Des Moines, he attended a school that assisted foreign students. It was a teacher there who recommended that he give this "new college" a try. He decided to attend Area XI and received a degree in electrical drafting. Neville was unable to attend the actual commencement ceremony because he started a job immediately after completing his coursework. His first job was at Pittsburgh Des Moines Steele. He also studied at Iowa State and spent most of his career in the electrical planning and maintenance of nuclear power plants at several locations in the United States. He remembers Iowa's cold weather after coming from a country where the temperature seldom went below 75 degrees! Neville was asked to speak at the celebration of DMACC"s 50th Anniversary. (Phone interview)