WSTC Honored by American Alumni Council
At Chicago Meeting
District V of the AAC Elect Western Representative Director

At the annual meeting of District V of the American Alumni Council held at the Palmer House in Chicago in January, Carl Cooper, Alumni Secretary, Western State Teachers College, was elected director of the district to succeed A. John Berge of the University of Wisconsin. District Five of the American Alumni Council includes the states of Ohio, Illinois, West Virginia, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, and Michigan.

Two years ago the American Alumni Council celebrated its Silver Anniversary at Columbus, Ohio where it was founded on the Ohio State University campus in 1914. The membership count is 585, representing colleges and universities all over the United States and Canada. Prior to the publication of the annual report of 1940, six thousand pages made up the Council study references in the forms of annual conference reports, manuals, alumni achievement surveys and bibliographies.

Western State Teachers College has maintained membership in the American Alumni Council since the Toronto and Muskoka Lakes annual convention in June 1929. Since then the annual conventions have gone to Amherst, Mass.; Atlanta, Georgia; Evanston, Ill.; Skytop, Pennsylvania; Washington, D.C.; Cincinnati, Ohio; West Point, New York; Columbus, Ohio; Swampscott, Mass.; and French Lick, Indiana. The 1941 convention is to be held at Atlantic City, N. J.

Baseball Schedule 1941
April 14—Ohio State at Columbus, O.  
April 15—Ohio State at Columbus, O.  
April 16—Ohio U. at Athens, O.  
April 17—Ohio U. at Athens, O.  
April 18—W. Virginia at Morgantown  
April 19—W. Virginia at Morgantown  
April 23—Notre Dame at Kalamazoo.  
April 26—Notre Dame at N. Dame  
April 30—Michigan at Ann Arbor.  
May 3—Wayne at Kalamazoo.  
May 6—Northwestern at Evanston.  
May 9—Ball State at Kalamazoo.  
May 10—Ball State at Kalamazoo.  
May 13—Michigan at Kalamazoo.  
May 19—Wisconsin at Madison, Wis.  
May 20—Wisconsin at Madison, Wis.  
May 23—Mich. State at E. Lansing  
May 27—Open  
May 30—Iowa Teach. at Cedar Falls.  
May 31—Iowa Teach. at Cedar Falls.  
June 4—Iowa at Kalamazoo.  
June 5—Iowa at Kalamazoo.  
June 9—California at Kalamazoo.  
June 10—California at Kalamazoo.

Industrial Arts Men in Grand Rapids, March 6, 7, 8
The 1941 convention of the Michigan Industrial Education Society is to be held at the Pantlind Hotel in Grand Rapids the first week in March. In addition to an official program filled with interesting conferences and addresses, several floors of the hotel are to be occupied with exhibits. Commercial organizations from all over the country display their products during this convention. Educational institutions are also invited to present displays and for the last several years Western State Teachers College has availed itself of the opportunity by accepting the invitation to maintain a booth. The booth assigned to WSTC for the 1941 convention is Number 38.

Friday noon Industrial Arts graduates of Western and their friends are to have lunch together in the Colonial Dining Room of the Pantlind Hotel.

Scholarship Results from Silver Offering
The Alpha Beta Epsilon Sorority of Benton Harbor recently arranged an evening of music and presented Miss Edna Kellogg of the Metropolitan and Chicago Civic Opera Companies in the Tropical Garden of the Whitecomb Hotel at St. Joseph. A silver offering was taken and the collection went to the sorority’s scholarship fund. Western’s alumnae in the Benton Harbor sorority are supporting two scholarships on the campus of Western State Teachers College.

National Studies by the American Alumni Council Say Concerning:
A. IN-SERVICE EDUCATION
1. Exact information as to the needs and possibilities of both the alumni and the college can never be completely gotten by means of mere blanks and letters; personal visitation is absolutely necessary.

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American Alumni Council Studies

2. More and more, college presidents are asking graduates to freely state the worth and defects of the college education they have received.
3. Programs for the continuation of education after graduation, such as are being sponsored by many colleges for their alumni groups are more and more in vogue.
4. The alumnus who fails to keep in touch with the institution which gave him his training is losing more of the benefits which he might reap than he can know.
5. A loyal alumnus is a product of a school which can give him the training his particular interests and aptitudes demand.
6. Many industries send their representatives to carefully observe the efficiency of their manufactured products for years after they have left the factory. A “follow-up” service on the part of the college with its graduates is very much appreciated by the alumni.
7. The institution which enrolls only those whom it is prepared to train adequately, surrounds them with the sympathetic and understanding guidance of great teachers, then follows them through their period of adjustment to the world of work, need have no fear of failure.
8. Members of the alumni are in position to give assistance to those responsible for admissions to the college.
9. As regards alumni reunions: “If the alumni are given something to come back for, they will come.”
10. Colleges grow through the creative power of imagination and the persistent influence of college sentiment and tradition.
11. Continual attention is necessary to keep an alumni filing system complete.
12. It cannot be said that colleges receive enough in tuition and fees to take care of all expenses in maintaining the college.
13. The alumni have the privilege of backing up the college and getting behind the improvements started for its advancement.
14. Many colleges have received gifts of land, buildings, endowments, equipment, scholarships, and money from sources stimulated by members of their alumni respectively.

B. ALUMNI ORGANIZATION

1. “Something to do” is the secret of success in any association or organization.
2. The business of keeping informed is a continuous process.
3. The only possible way for the college to maintain a complete up-to-date alumni mailing file is through cooperation of every graduate.
4. The alumni office may well be likened to a union station through which all lines pass.
5. Interest in and respect for organization are most desirable qualities which have to be cultivated.
6. Organized alumni loyalty is worth infinitely more than unorganized goodwill.
7. It is equally advantageous to the alumni and to those on the campus when graduates, faculty, and students cooperate in keeping up-to-date alumni files.

C. CONTINUED COOPERATION

1. Graduates who have most recently left the campus continue to have need for council and guidance from the college.
2. Graduation means a pause for recognition of accomplishment rather than the absolute completion of learning in a chosen course of study.
3. The final test of any college is its product — the alumni.
4. What its graduates do for society of the time is of vital concern to the college.
5. Students may well be taught that they do not leave the college mentally or spiritually when they go away physically.
6. The campus, as it is, is our inheritance, and that fact implies that, as graduates, we are in many ways obligated.
Western State Teachers College and Her Alumni...

By HENRY FORD, JR.

(The following article is adapted from a radio address, broadcast from the campus studio in January 1941. The author is a practicing attorney in the city of Kalamazoo, and president of the Kalamazoo Alumni Club.)

... Western State was founded as a training school for teachers, and that, of course, is still a primary function. A broadening of its curricula, however, has attracted students who are interested in fields other than education, and has made it possible for its alumni to find employment in fields not allied to teaching. Pre-professional courses have been added to the curricula of the college in Business Administration, Dentistry, Engineering, Forestry, Journalism, Law, Medicine and Social Work.

This means that the alumni of Western State are entering all fields of work. Their interests are varied. They are not united in a common enterprise resulting from their association with their alma mater. But, despite this variation in the work of the alumni, the College maintains its interest in them. It matters not to Western after its students have left the campus whether they are teachers, doctors or lawyers, or clerks or salesmen. They are still the product of the institution. Their success is the triumph of the college. A certain amount of time, energy and money has been expended by the school in the training of each student. It is only natural that the college should retain an interest in its investment. The alumni of a college are like children who have left their family abode, and benefiting from the guidance of their parents have established their own new connections.

Western State like all progressive institutions of higher learning, therefore, has sought and still seeks to maintain a friendly relationship with its alumni. An alumni secretary is employed and an office is maintained at the school for this purpose. There are now over fifteen thousand alumni of this College. Evidence of the institution's interest in its graduates is found in the fact that up-to-date information concerning the alumni is sought and filed in the alumni secretary's office. Annual events are held on the campus for the benefit of the alumni. This is especially true in the fall of the year when Homecoming is held.

I have been discussing the attitude of the college toward its graduates. But what should the disposition of the alumni be with their alma mater. Ought they upon graduation forget the school they attended? Ought they break off all connections with it? I grant you there are many who are of that opinion. Some think that the educating of youth is simply cold-blooded business, and that the handing over of a diploma at the end of the college course is the termination of a business deal similar to the delivery of a deed upon the final payment being made in a purchase of real estate. Some feel that their social life was too restricted while they were in college. Some that they did not receive the right kind of training. Others that their professors did not take a sufficient personal interest in them. Most of these grievances which the graduates of some colleges have are either imaginary or are insignificant in comparison with the benefits which have been received by those who harbor them.

Attitude of the Alumni

It is my conviction that the former student of any college should strive, if possible, to maintain an interest in the school which has contributed to his development.

One reason he should do so is that he is indebted to that institution. I feel that the alumni of our colleges are prone to forget the obligation which they have incurred as a result of the education they have received. It is true that as students they were forced to pay a tuition, but the amount of the tuition paid by a student, of course, is negligible in comparison with the cost to the school of having the student in attendance. After graduating, some students fail to appreciate the benefits they have received. They may feel that something was wrong with the school they attended because they do not remember the substance of the various courses of study they pursued. If this is true they forget that the function of a college is not just to impart knowledge, but rather it is to develop sound character, broad scholarship and culture. These are intangible assets, the value of which no alumnus can estimate.

Another tie that should bind alumni to their college is one of sentiment. Most of us remember our college days with pleasure. We are able to recall the sociable times we had, the new friends we made, or perhaps the budding of a romance. Our college days composed that period of transition from childhood into adulthood, a final training period before we were to face the more serious responsibilities of life. There is a certain glamour that enfolds our memories of the days we spent at Western State. This sentiment does not diminish, but as the years roll along memories of college days are pleasant to recall.

Things Alumni Can Do

If, then, there are reasons for alumni maintaining an interest in their college what should they do about it? It seems to me that there are many ways in which the former student of any college may be of assistance to the institution he attended. Every college is anxious to secure good students — to build up the student body with persons of good character and who appreciate the opportunity of securing a college education. They are not interested in simply increasing their enrollment. That would be an empty accomplishment. Students who will be a credit to their college are the ones who are coveted by any such institution. The alumni may be of service by encouraging persons of
Western Alumni of South Bend, Indiana to Organize

Preliminary arrangements have been completed and a date in March has been fixed for the organization of a WSTC Alumni Club in South Bend, Indiana. Mrs. Robert William Shaeffer, nee Velma Menchinger, formerly of Benton Harbor and a member of Alpha Beta Epsilon was married February 8 and has gone to make her home in South Bend. Miss Jean Ednie, a graduate in the Class of 1918, is in charge of the South Bend Club correspondence.

Men of the Physical Education Department to Have Luncheon in Lansing

As in former years, Michigan high school coaches who are graduates of WSTC and their friends are to have a luncheon again this year at the time of the Michigan High School Tournament. The date has been set for Saturday noon, March 22. Sixty-five were present on the occasion of the luncheon a year ago, when President Sangren was the principal speaker on the program. "Juddy" Hyemes, chairman of the department of physical education for men on campus at Western State Teachers College, is preparing an interesting program for the occasion this year and Western men are most cordially invited to attend.

7. The best practice of the modern college is to share the problems of the time with those who have graduated.
8. Faculty members and graduates may work together in the solution of many educational problems.
9. Education is not complete at the time of graduation, therefore, the alumni need to cooperate with the continued program of their alma mater.
10. Inasmuch as a freshman starts the process of becoming an alumnus, there should be more opportunity for under-graduate instruction in the privileges and duties of alumni.
11. Graduate loyalty makes an impression upon the students on the campus.
12. Good will is always at a premium and a real test of it is its applications in practical ways which may involve time, effort, money.
13. An informational basis for correspondence to the alumni is best because facts tend to breed confidence.
14. Correspondence of a professional nature from the alumni should be encouraged by faculty members,

college age to enroll at their college.

Alumni of state educational institutions are not called upon for financial aid in the maintenance and operation of the school as are the former students of a privately endowed college. There are ways, however, in which financial help may be given state maintained schools which the schools will appreciate. There are projects for which state money is not appropriated. Their success often depends on financial assistance given by individuals. An example of this is the new football stadium at Western State which was partially financed through donations by individuals.

One of the most helpful ways in which alumni may indirectly be of service to their college is through contributing to scholarship and memorial funds. Western State has several of these. Some of them are for majoring in some particular subject. Others are of a general character for the benefit of any worthy student. Loan funds have been established at Western State. Typical of these are the Dwight B. Waldo Memorial Fund and the W.S.T.C. Student Loan Fund. These projects which benefit students in turn benefit the school. More and more students will receive help from these funds which are increasing in size from donations. Contributions no matter how small are gratefully received.

One of the most effective ways for alumni to maintain the desired relationship with their college is to participate in alumni functions. This may mean to return to the campus for the annual alumni gatherings, or it may mean to join some local alumni organization. These clubs are in a position to be of great service to the college through organized effort.

Alumni Clubs

Here at Kalamazoo we have an active men's alumni club which holds monthly dinner meetings at Walwood Hall. This club has a scholarship fund of its own. A scholarship is awarded each year to a worthy student. The award is large enough to cover the tuition of the student and as well all fees and the cost of school books and supplies. The club also aids the administration in the holding of a general alumni party during the Homecoming week-end. I would like to take this opportunity to urge all former students of Western State to consider the possibility of forming an alumni club in their respective localities. The meetings which can be held by these organizations are enjoyable and many worthwhile projects can be found. The alumni secretary of the college, Mr. Carl R. Cooper, is always glad to render any assistance requested of him.

Alumni Magazine

I would also like to mention Western's alumni magazine which is published during the year. It serves to keep the alumni acquainted with the progress of the college and with the events which occur there. Our alumni who subscribe to this magazine find that it is a satisfactory way of maintaining a relationship with the college.

Part of American Democracy

The effect of lending support to an educational institution is far reaching. Alumni who help in the progress and development of their alma mater are furthering the purposes of the institution. We should not lose sight of the fact that our colleges are a vital part of American democracy. They act as a stabilizing influence in this period of time which is so critical both from a national and international standpoint. Colleges are service organizations created for the purpose of serving our country through the educating and training of our people. The maintenance and operation of these institutions is necessary if our democracy is to be preserved. The alumni of all colleges have a place in this important work, and I am sure that the alumni of Western State will continue to do their part.