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Western State Teachers College Bulletin, Preliminary Announcement of The Program of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of The Founding of the College

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Western State Teachers College Bulletin

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Preliminary Announcement
of
The Program of
the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary
of
The Founding of the College

JUNE 12 to 17, 1929

1904 1929

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

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Preliminary Announcement

of the program of the

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

of

WESTERN
STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

June 12 to 17, 1929

To be held on the Western State Teachers College Campus at Kalamazoo

1904 ——— ——— ——— 1929
Western State Teachers College Alumni,

Dear Friends:

Western is making elaborate plans for the homecoming of her sons and daughters Wednesday, June 12, to Monday, June 17, 1929. Dr. Ernest Burnham, who has been on the hilltop since the opening day of Western State Normal, Monday, June 27, 1904, is chairman of the general committee which has been at work nearly a year. Dr. McCracken is chairman of the finance committee. Three thousand dollars will be raised to defray certain expenses which must be met outside of the state appropriation.

We expect the largest alumni gathering that has ever returned to a state teachers college homecoming in the United States. Make your plans to be here next June. Your classmates and fellow students of all the years 1904-1929 will be on the campus.

Some of you have not seen the library or the gymnasium for men. These two buildings are not surpassed in our type of institution anywhere. We have recently begun the foundations of a valuable museum collection. New objects and items of value and interest are being added every week.

A splendid history of Western will be ready for distribution next June. When you are on the ground you will learn all about the new Faculty Council, about our growth during the past decade, and of our plans for the next twenty-five years. Western has steadily grown and has constantly raised standards. In 1905 our inventory was $100,000. Now our tangible assets are listed at $1,625,000. In 1904 the faculty numbered 14 (3 of these part time). Now we number 201. In the fall term 1904 the enrollment was 107. In 1927 the fall term enrollment was 2,316. In 1904-05 eighteen counties were represented. Last year students came from 79 counties in Michigan. In the first year, students came from one state—Michigan. Last year 26 states were represented.

Residence for the life certificate has just been extended from two years to three years in all courses. In 1918 the degree privilege was granted to Western and the number of students electing four-year courses has steadily increased. In 1927-28, 181 students received the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science.

A splendid program of information, entertainment, and inspiration will greet you next June. Make your plans early and come back to your friends.

Very cordially,

Dwight B. Waldo
President.
Western State Celebrates its Silver Anniversary

June 12 to 17, 1929

In this preliminary announcement of its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary program, Western State Teachers College extends to its alumni and friends an invitation to take part in the most important celebration in which it has engaged.

The invitation is extended to you, in the form in which it has been prepared, in order to make the announcement bulletin worth keeping for a souvenir. In it you will find suggestions of the reasons for the advancement of the institution to the position of prominence which it now enjoys in the educational world.

You may look for these reasons in the physical equipment of the school, in the devotion of men and women of character and ability who have never slackened their efforts for its welfare, in the competitive athletics that contribute so much to the virile spirit of youth in its college days, and last, but by no means least, in the loyalty of the great body of students and alumni and friends who never forget the contributions of Western State Teachers College to the rapid march of educational progress.

Many schools will celebrate at their anniversaries a longer period of history, but few can point to such great achievements in a quarter of a century.

The program submitted below is not complete in every detail, although a committee of the faculty has been working on it for a year. It is sent to you with the hope that you will see that Western State is planning a celebration out of the ordinary, and that you will use every effort to make it a success. First you can mark the date at once on your calendar pad; then you can urge your friends to reserve this date.

The committee in charge of this celebration intends that it do something more than signalize the growth of a single college, however important its attainments may be.

To this end, nationally-known educators and prominent men from other walks of life, will participate in the program. A part of the program is designed especially to be of interest to alumni, another part, to students; others to the general public, educators and parents, but all of it will be of value to the alumni and friends of the college.

It is important to remember that this occasion, though a memorial, will not be enshrouded with the solemnity that marks a memorial to something that has passed away. Western State Teachers College is alive. It has a future much greater than its past.

It is hoped that the informality of this announcement will suggest to you the happiness of the present, and the unclouded promise of the future that dominate the spirit in which this celebration is prepared.
And, at night,
A warmth of light giving vitality
To stony pillars.
TENTATIVE PROGRAM OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

7:30 On Campus—Public Reception, Kalamazoo citizens, under direction of Kalamazoo Alumni

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

2:30 City Auditorium—Congratulatory Program
   Brief speeches by representatives of the State, various schools and a Kalamazoo citizen
8:15 City Auditorium—The Hymn of Praise, Music Department

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

10:00 City Auditorium—Convocation
   Three speakers—(1) From the field of general education
   (2) A representative of teacher college work
   (3) Another speaker primarily concerned with education
12:00 Student Picnic on Campus
2:00 Student Program—Women's Gymnasium — Seniors, Student Council and Council Advisors
6:30 Pageant
8:30 Athletic Recognition Meeting—Women's Gymnasium

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

8:00 Breakfasts—Organizations (Alumni and Students)
10:00 Alumni Class Rallies
11:00 Alumni Meeting
12:30 Alumni Banquet—Men's Gymnasium
3:30 Baseball
8:30 Alumni party—Men's Gymnasium

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

3:30 Baccalaureate
5:00 Garden Tea for Graduates

MONDAY, JUNE 17

10:00 Commencement
Splendid home of our friends—perpetual and intimate—Books.
From a hilltop pear orchard to one of the nation's greatest educational institutions is a gap too wide to bridge here with its complete story. The story includes important periods in the lives of hundreds of devoted educators, some of whom have been instructors in the college since its founding. Intimately tied up in this story are the educational and life careers of some 12,000 alumni and students. In every chapter of this story of a quarter century is woven the thread of educational progress in the Wolverine State.

In accordance with the provisions of a bill signed by Governor Bliss in 1903, Western State Normal opened for the registration of students, June 27, 1904. Dwight B. Waldo, who had headed the Northern Normal School at Marquette for five years, was chosen principal. His first faculty consisted of the following members: John T. McManus, education; Miss Mary Lowell, English; Thomas J. Riley, mathematics; Ernest Burnham, Rural Education; Leslie H. Wood, science; Miss Charlotte A. Waite, textiles; Miss Ethel Rockwell, physical education; George S. Waite, manual arts; Miss Martha Sherwood, Miss Amelia Anderson, Miss Nellie McConnel, Ray E. Chase, teachers in the training school; Miss Florence Marsh, music; and Miss Josephine Wing, secretary.

Approximately 100 students enrolled the fall term in the new institution. The fall term twenty-three years later, the Normal, with its name changed to Western State Teachers College, still headed by President Waldo, enrolled 2,316 students. Leslie H. Wood, and Dr. Ernest Burnham, both of the first faculty, are still with the Hilltop College.

With characteristic foresight, the administration of the new Normal School organized a department of rural education, headed by Ernest Burnham. The department, the first organized in any state teachers college, enrolled 15 students. In 1928 there were 239 students in the course. The department has furnished three out of the ten presidents of the department of rural education of the National Education Association. Its influence on education in the country has been great. In 1928 there were 154 departments of rural education in the United States.

The first building at Western State, now known as the Administration building, was dedicated in 1905. Four years later the women's gymnasium and the training school completed the array of Ionic columns, that is now so imposing a feature of the Hilltop.

It was not until 1913 that the boggy pasture land between Oakland Drive and the Michigan Central tracks was converted into a field for Western sports. A year later the present science building was erected.

The next important addition to material equipment was made in 1921 when the Manual Arts building opened the possibilities realized in 1928 with almost 300 graduates active teachers of manual arts in the field.

In 1922 fifty acres of woodland, now known as the Kleinstuck Preserve, were presented to the State Board of Education by Mrs. Caroline Kleinstuck. This woodland offers a valuable field for the study of birds and other small wild life, as well as a laboratory for plant propagation.

In 1924 and 1925 the library, and the men's gymnasium completed the permanent building equipment now used by the college. Both of these are model
buildings of their kind, and have been made objects of special study by those interested in improving the efficiency of these types of educational architecture.

A brief mention of attainments that represent progress of a non-materia kind would include the celebration of rural progress day which has been observed annually since 1907; the publication of a weekly college newspaper, of which Miss Blanche Draper has been editor since 1918; the organization, under the leadership of George Sprau, of four-year college courses leading to the degrees of A. B. and B. S.; the development of an extension department, now under the management of John C. Hoekje, serving annually hundreds of students who "learn while they earn"; the establishment of a college cafeteria and cooperative store for the convenience and economy of students, and the organization of a student council system of school government; the beginning of an imposing art gallery, due chiefly to the generosity of A. M. Todd, a friend of the school; and the beginning of a historical museum under the direction of Dr. J. O. Knauss.

Important contributions to teacher training method include a unique system of training schools, located in the various types of communities in which teachers will serve after graduation. These range from the rural district school to the large city school.

The administration has recently begun the experiment of faculty council participation; new students are admitted to the college only after a course of preliminary instruction known as "Freshman Days"; and students throughout their college careers are aided by a system of advisorship which helps direct the students into courses for which they are best fitted.

Western has accomplished much more in its twenty-five years than can be even indicated in a sketch. A complete history of its accomplishments will be published as a detail of the silver anniversary celebration.

Whatever the school's past has wrought, however worthy its present, Western aspires to a more important service still, soliciting the earnest support of its friends for the success of a future built upon a foundation twenty-five years in the making.
Our President

By DR. WILLIAM McCracken

Twenty-five years out of the life of a man or an organization is quite a tidy slice. Whether the slice is of any value or not depends, of course, upon the slicee. A segment of a turnip, while it would surely excite bovine transports, would on the other hand leave a Delmonico cold and unmoved. A slice from the heart of a honey dew melon, however, cool, sweet, fragrant and savory, is something else again and the mere thought of it would be sufficient to cause excessive irrigation of the parotids of even a chef extraordinary.

This may have a lyrical sound, but as a matter of fact, the subject lends itself better to hexametric treatment. In this case the slices are out of the lives of Dwight Bryant Waldo, president, and Western State Teachers College, presided over. They are concurrent, contemporaneous, and so overlapping and inextricably intermingled that to all intents and purposes they are one.

Dwight, the hero of this sketch, first saw the light of day in Western New York, but early perceiving the advantages of Western culture, at a tender age, came to Michigan and settled in Plainwell. He spent his boyhood days in the Plainwell schools and in sharpening his already keen wits by swapping gossip with the stout yeomanry of this village as they gathered around the cracker and
gingersnap barrels of his father's grocery. Graduating from high school, and feeling a further urge toward the intellectual life, he entered Michigan Agricultural College, and was a student there for two years. During this period he did his first teaching in a district school located on the present site of Camp Custer, and still standing and in use. Came naturally then from this early experience his later interest in battles and battle fields. Later he matriculated as a student in Albion College, and in due time achieved his degree. Later we find him toiling as an instructor in history in Albion, then in Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin, and then back once more in Albion as professor in history after a year spent in graduate work in history in Harvard University.

Then his hour struck. The newly established Normal School (1899) at Marquette, Michigan, received him gladly as her first titular head. Five years of fruitful labor there and we find him in Kalamazoo as the president of the just created Western State Normal School. Since then this has remained his one and only educational love, though he spent one year in the state of Washington putting life and pep into the Normal School at Bellingham.

Western at birth was indeed a puny infant, a mere fly speck upon the educational map, but in it were the same sort of germs that are found in the mustard seed so that it grew strong and sturdy, sank its roots down to living water, and developed a magnificent foliage until now from near and far the educational birds gather to roost in its branches and enjoy its gracious shade. From nothing to a place second to none in schools of its type is a notable achievement.

To the stranger we point with pride to our president as the prime cause of this phenomenon. He nursed this baby through its mumps and measles, led it by the hand through its boyhood and adolescent troubles until now in its vigorous and virile young manhood it stands four square upon the Hill, sound and healthy, where all may see it. A fine monument, indeed, the finest any man could have.

Perhaps it would not be seemly to set down all that one yearns to say about this man. He has touched and quickened thousands of lives and in the hearts of all of these, young and old, is enshrined a picture of him which is looked upon with love and reverence. He is strong and courageous, tender and true, just and equitable. He dreams dreams and makes these dreams come true. He has a vision of education as a power for good for all and not just a few. He exalts the teacher's work, and believes he should receive a fitting financial reward for his mental toil. He carries the burden of this school upon his heart and labors unceasingly to advance its interests. He works prodigiously and successfully. He has a real gift for making and keeping friends and has these literally by the thousand. In this list are all of you who ever attended Western, and you may be sure he watches with affectionate interest the progress that you make. Such a man is the president we proudly hail.
William McCracken

Instructor in Chemistry on the Hilltop for twenty-two years — Acting President of Western for one year.

In the wide range of humanity represented in Western’s faculty, no one is more human, more humorous, more wholly wholesome than William McCracken. He came over the historical horizon here in the second summer term, 1905, when he made a visitor’s voluntary (unpaid) appearance in the weekly assembly. From that day to this, and more definitely since he came as a member of the faculty two years later, Dr. McCracken has advanced toward first place in institutional influence and in the hearts of his countrymen.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, he grew to sturdy manhood under the best Presbyterian tutelage as the home shifted somewhat from state to state, thus adding perspective to his intellectual and social experience. The trail of his career has had stations in Missouri, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and New York. Of schooling he had a plenty in public schools in St. Louis, Mo., and Pontiac, Mich.; in the preparatory department of Geneva College; and in Columbia, Chicago, and Michigan Universities. His degrees are A. B. from Michigan, and Ph. D. from Chicago.

He has been science teacher in the Manistee High School; principal of the Marquette, Michigan, High School; professor of Chemistry in Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania; in the Northern State Teachers College, Marquette, Michigan; and the Western State Teachers College, Kalamazoo, Michigan. He was honored with a visiting lectureship in Chemistry in Columbia University. He has never lacked a place of advantage from which to bring himself to bear on the welfare of the rising generation.

Often the incidental odds and ends of a man’s life are equally revealing with his established profession or work in showing his status among his fellows. Dr. McCracken has been president of the Upper Peninsula Teachers Association; acting-president of Western one year; president of the Kalamazoo Rotary Club; vice-president of Michigan College Chemistry Teachers Association; chairman, Western’s Faculty Council; and chairman of the Finance Committee of our Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration. The last three of the foregoing list of honors he is bearing up under at present.

His home, his work, and his church are written large in the life of Dr. McCracken. Upon his return some years since from a trip with Mrs. McCracken as far abroad as Beirut, Syria, where they visited his mother, he was entertaining the faculty with some verbal and photographic descriptions, when his wife’s picture appeared in the margin of one of the slides. “Who is that?” someone asked. “The best traveling companion a man ever had,” he flashed.

His influence in the Presbyterian Church is more than he imagines. After a communion service a sister in the church remarked, “When I see Dr. McCracken coming up the aisle with the elements I feel that I ought to be a better Christian.”

We hail you, Dr. McCracken, as the de luxe demonstrator of common sense and the distributor par excellence of good humor and good will among men.
Ernest Burnham was born in Charleston Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. He attended the rural elementary schools of that locality and later Battle Creek High School. After graduating from high school he matriculated at Albion College from which he received Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Later he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Dr. Burnham edited a country weekly newspaper for three years; was County Commissioner of Schools of Calhoun County, Michigan, for five years; and has been in his present position in the Department of Rural Education of the Western State Teachers College for twenty-four years. He has taught at various times in the summer sessions of Columbia University, the University of Michigan, Cornell University, and the University of California. He has published research studies through Columbia University, the Federal Bureau of Education, and the State Departments of Education of Michigan and Pennsylvania, as well as several local studies.

Dr. Burnham has been president of the Department of Rural Education in the N. E. A., and chairman of the Committee on Education of the American Country Life Association. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and is a member of the American Sociological Society and of the National Society for the Study of Education. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He also belongs to a number of religious and fraternal orders of local or national scope.

Dr. Burnham is known throughout the United States as one of the foremost authorities on rural education. Since he became a member of the faculty of the Western State Teachers College at its founding in 1904, he has not only endeared himself to countless students, now alumni of the institution, but he has succeeded in building up the Department of Rural Education to the point where it is frequently pointed out as an example of what can be done in the matter of rural teacher training. So closely identified has Dr. Burnham become with the Department of Rural Education in particular and with the policies and growth of the Western State Teachers College in general that any statement of the progress of either would be incomplete without mention of his name and his achievements.
Leslie H. Wood

Leslie H. Wood was born at Warren, Michigan, and received his public school education in the schools of Owosso, Michigan. Later he attended the University of Michigan and was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He began teaching as Superintendent of Schools at Birmingham, Michigan, and later served in the same capacity at Midland, Michigan. In 1899 he became Principal of the High School at Owosso. After two years he entered the Graduate School of the University of Chicago. During the school year 1902-03, Mr. Wood accepted a position as supply teacher of geography and physical science in the Northern State Normal School, Marquette, Michigan. At the end of six months, he left Marquette and returned to the University of Chicago. In the fall of 1904 he came to the Western State Normal School, Kalamazoo, Michigan, as teacher of geography and science. With gradual modifications this position has developed into the one he now holds as Professor of Geography and Geology.

Mr. Wood has traveled extensively in Europe as well as in America, and has devoted much time to original research in his special field. At different times he served on surveys for the state of North Dakota making special studies of problems of irrigation and lignite. He did similar work in the study of the peat lands of Iowa. During the summer of 1911 Mr. Wood was associated with Professor Frank Leverett in making a study of the glaciation of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In addition to published reports of the surveys and studies named above, Mr. Wood is the author of an excellent geography of Michigan.
Western's Coaches

Education and athletics came to the Hilltop together in 1904 under the tutelage of John T. McManus, who was professor of the gentle art of pedagogy during class hours, and who took his exercise seriously enough to assume the somewhat rougher detail of football coach after the day's recitations were over.

The first season saw little football, as the squad dispersed when a majority of its members found academic pursuits preferable to the more rigorous ones of the gridiron. The second season was more active, but the games were all losses. The next year, “Tubby” Myers, now coach at Port Huron high school, played half back and coached the team. Kalamazoo College and Ypsilanti Normal appear on the schedule; both of them were victors.

Then came “Bill” Spaulding, star of the “Little Giants,” at Wabash College, to the Hilltop. For fourteen years he was responsible for football, basketball, baseball, and track at Western State. During these years both Spaulding and Western State achieved prominence. Spaulding’s reputation took him first to the mentorship of Minnesota’s Thundering Herd, and later to the head of the department of physical education at the University of California at Los Angeles. Western State’s athletic victories established the Hilltoppers as formidable foes on any field of college sport, and laid the basis for what is one of the largest physical education departments in schools of its kind in the United States.

Milton Olander succeeded Spaulding as head coach at Western in 1922. For two years he brought victory to the Hilltop. An expanding department called for assistance, and Herbert “Buck” Read came to handle the Brown and Gold cagers in 1922. “Juddy” Hyames was secured to instruct the Hilltopper diamond clubs, and Lawrence Taylor became the trainer of the men who aspired to honors on the field and track.

When Milton Olander left the Hilltop in 1924, Earl T. Martineau came from the Gopher back field, where he won all-American honors, to take charge of Western’s gridders. The fall of 1928 finds Mitchell Gary, one of “Doc” Spears Minnesota warriors, coach of the varsity line.

The fate of Western sports is now entrusted to Martineau and Gary, with the football varsity; John Gill, mentor of the freshmen gridmen; Herbert W. Read, basketball coach; “Juddy” Hyames, assigned to the baseball squad; and Charles Maher, who trains the thinclads for rough-path schedules. Indoor and outdoor track work is cared for by Martineau. Lee Hart manages the tennis teams that have recently brought great credit to the Brown and Gold.

With these men for coaches and instructors, it is Western’s hope not only to continue the reputation that is established by victory on the field, but to develop men whose belief in good sportsmanship as a training for sounder health and hardier character will influence the youth of Michigan schools.
Western's football teams have won 34 games, tied 2, and lost 9 during the last six years.

Western's basketball teams have won 58 games and lost 15 during the last four years.

Western's baseball teams have won 78 games and lost 25 during the last seven years.

Western's two-mile relay team placed first in the Cleveland and Ohio State Intercollegiate Relays in 1928.


Western's tennis team has won the State Invitational Collegiate Tennis Tournament 5 out of the last 6 years, and also won all of the 9 tennis meets and tournaments entered in 1928.

More than 100 graduates of Western's physical education department are coaching Michigan high school athletics and teaching physical education.
To the Alumni:

Western State Teachers College is soon to conclude its twenty-fifth year of service. This fact is reason for the alumni to rejoice. Age lends prestige to any institution, so the significance of time is welcomed and there is pride in the glorious history of Western State.

Nobody can be more vitally interested in the general rating of an educational institution than the graduates of that institution. The members of the alumni always have a share in the creation of public appreciation for their Alma Mater. The reputation of a college cannot be a thing apart from the record made by those who have had their training in it. For the faculty and student body to do their best is not enough. The alumni must attain, and it is only fair that the school share in their successes.

With the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary celebration approaching, may it not be a good time to discuss ways and means of cultivating closer and more friendly relations among the 10,000 students who have graduated from Western State? The alumni can encourage the interchange of ideas regarding the welfare of Western State Teachers College. They have come from every state in the Union and several have gone beyond the States since graduation. A general mailing finds many letters addressed to foreign countries. Distance challenges every alumnus, but lasting memories will prevail, and facts assist memory.

The Kardex File in the office of the Alumni Secretary at Western State Teachers College is a beautiful sight. It is very satisfying, too, when inquiries come as they so often do, to be able to go to the Kardex File and find the records up-to-date. The accuracy of the files depends upon unified endeavor. There is only one way. The members of the alumni are the only ones that can insure accuracy by continually returning informational facts regarding themselves and others. To be more specific, here is the most usual procedure:

1. Graduation from some department of Western State Teachers College.
2. The filing of a biographical memorandum—blanks are provided and it is the only way that an entrance can be made in the Kardex File.
3. Prompt return of the annual information card which should contain corrections and additional information.
4. A correct alumni directory and a mailing list without error.
5. Frequent communication, whether there are changes in information or not.
6. Continuous organization and association—group spirit thrives best when nourished regularly.

I have only to remind you that the graduates of Western State are very human. They graduate; they teach, enter other professions, or carry on business successfully in many places; they marry, whereby the great majority change their names; they become the keepers of homes and have children; they attain distinction, scholastically and otherwise, and they continually create new facts about themselves that should be the inheritance of every graduate.

“All for the growth of Western State.”

Carl Cooper,
Alumni Secretary
Alma Mater

Hail to the Brown and Gold,
We're for you as of old,
Dearer by far than all the rest,
We praise you as the best.
We'll doff our hats to you,
Fight for you and be true—
Here's to you, our Alma Mater,
Brown and Gold.