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University of Minnesota to Offer College Level Work at Morris

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CROOKSTON NEXT? -

U to offer
College Level
Work At Morris

Minneapolis - Beginning in the fall of 1960, the University of Minnesota will offer first-year college level instruction on the campus of its West Central School of Agriculture and Experiment Station at Morris, President J. L. Morrill announced Thursday (Nov. 5). "Phasing out of high school level instruction at the school will start at the same time, but experiment station activities will continue," he said.

Authorization by the Board of Regents, ^{ed} ~~for~~ the action inaugurating college training at Morris is based on more than two years of study which also indicated, according to the University president, that it may be "both desirable and feasible" to offer a similar program at the Northwest School of Agriculture and Experiment Station at Crookston at some later date.

"Clearly, the experience at Morris will be of ^{crucial} importance in the final determination of the course of action to be pursued with respect to the Crookston school" President Morrill stated, adding, "and the Regents have pledged their intention to continue the serious consideration of the collegiate instructional needs of the Crookston-Crookston-Northwestern Minnesota region".

Also contemplated by the Regents, the President reported, are changes in the curriculum of the North Central School of Agriculture and Experiment Station at Grand Rapids including the possible phasing out of high school level agricultural work and the development of post-high school technical offerings. The Regents have authorized the University administration to make immediate studies with ^{respect} ~~resolutions~~ to the future of the Grand Rapids school, he added.

President Morrill emphasized that the Regents have authorized only the experimental "beginning" of first-year college instruction at Morris for the school year 1960-1961 and further study of the future programs of the Crookston and Grand Rapids schools.

"It will be recognized," he added, " that any development of continuing collegiate or post-high school level work at these schools will require Legislative support." The next regular session of the State Legislature will open in January 1961.

The University chief pointed out that the planned ^{ing} studies ^{of} the three schools and the Regents' action in beginning a college program at Morris are all in accord with the recommendations of the 1957-59 Legislative Interim Commission on High^{er} Education, the 1957-59 Legislative Interim Commission on Agriculture^d Schools and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2, dated April 9, 1959.

Headed by Senator Robert R. Dunlap of Plainview, the Interim Commission on Higher Education recommended to the 1959 Legislature " that the Board of Regents be requested to develop collegiate programs at the University Agriculture^d Schools beginning with Crookston and Morris and that adequate funds be provided for ^{this} ~~these~~ purpose^s." The Legislature, however, did not ^{appropriate} ~~approve~~ the recommended funds. The Commission further urged that the Regents "be asked to study the possible use of the University Agriculture^d School at Grand Rapids in providing collegiate programs as a technical-vocational ~~instruction. inst. etc.~~."

In its report to the 1959 Legislature, which included a recommendation to the Regents that they prepare and submit " building and administrative plans for the development of four-year college branches for resident and non-resident students" at the Morris and Crookston schools, the Agriculture^d Schools Commission called for "equality in educational opportunity".

" The ^{institutional} ~~instructional~~ pattern of development which has taken place since territorial days" the commission asserted in its report, "has resulted in a lack of higher education^d facilities in a large area of western Minnesota... College instruction ~~at~~ the agriculture^d schools of Morris and Crookston will assist the state in providing equal opportunity in higher education without

the added expense of creating entirely new campus ^{and} facilities. At the present time, minor changes in the instructional program at these two schools will result in the availability of existing facilities for college instruction. The construction of some additional facilities will provide University branches which can serve 4-year college enrollments for some time to come."

The Commission, headed by Senator Fred W. Behmler of Morris, cited estimates that establishment of University four-year branches at the two schools would attract enrollment of from 771 to 1,152 at Morris and from 838 to 1,121 ~~in~~ Crookston.

In its resolution of April 9, 1959, the State Senate, with the House of Representatives concurring, called ~~for~~ ^{on} the Regents to "consider establishment ^{ing} college courses at the Schools and Experiment Stations located ~~at~~ Morris and Crookston, and report to the Legislature before January 15, 1961, their conclusion, if any."

The Legislative action followed consideration of the reports of the two ~~interim~~ commissions and was taken after legislative committees had heard representatives of ~~two~~ citizens groups: The West Central ~~ion~~ Educational Development Association from Morris and vicinity and the Northwestern Educational Improvement Association from the Crookston area.

Originally an Indian school operated by the United States government, the School of Agriculture and Experiment Station at Morris was established as a University agency in 1910. Located on some 824 acres adjoining the city, the school occupies 17 major buildings and 19 minor structures. Principal officer is Supt. Rodney A. Briggs.