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GULF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EDUCATIONAL SURVEY

MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES

HANCOCK

HARRISON

JACKSON

PEARL RIVER

PREPARED BY THE GULF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT WAS FINANCED IN PART THROUGH AN URBAN PLANNING GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE URBAN PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 701 OF THE HOUSING ACT OF 1954, AS AMENDED.

URBAN PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROJECT MISSISSIPPI 04-00-0096

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SELF-HELP NATIONAL TRAINING COMMISSION

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GULF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EDUCATIONAL SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

As a part of the continuing comprehensive planning efforts and in support of expressions of interests of educational, civic, and business leaders, the Gulf Regional Planning Commission has conducted an area-wide survey to determine the need for an educational program beyond the junior college level. Information was solicited from those citizens most likely to take advantage of higher education, now or in the near future, and who could contribute ideas as to the best courses to promote. Conclusions of the report are in no way intended to produce a competitive atmosphere between the existing junior college system and a planned senior college.

Gulf Park College has been renamed the Gulf Park University Center and will offer courses from three major state universities on the junior, senior and graduate levels. Of major concern to residents of the region is the tentative requirement for enrollment for a period of time on the parent campus to complete degree requirements. The information obtained from this survey has been compiled into meaningful statistics and is available to the Center as an aid in establishing a desired curriculum that will be participated in and enjoyed by the greatest number.

The Gulf Coast has never experienced the benefit of a four year college of degree granting status, even though it boasts the state's oldest settlement and is the second largest population center. The Commission became aware of the support for the creation of a four year institution after the findings of a blue ribbon survey, contained in the Regional Study Design, were released. The survey was

conducted under the direction of Professor Reginald R. Isaacs of Harvard University. Questionnaires were submitted to carefully selected business and civic leaders throughout the four-county Region. Sixty-five percent of those persons interviewed so enthusiastically favored a senior college on the Gulf Coast that they advocated increasing taxes to aid in financing such an institution.

PURPOSE

The foremost objective of this survey was to determine the number of persons who would support an institution of higher learning through actual attendance. Additionally, an effort was made to determine the extent of "grassroot" support to sustain a desirable quality and range of academic offerings at various levels and in an array of disciplines.

METHODOLOGY

A survey format was structured as to permit and encourage high school students, college students, teachers, and laymen to respond concurrently and was distributed through-out the four counties. (See appendix for copy of form.) Distribution was made to all eleventh and twelfth grade students, teachers and instructors at all levels, and to students at the two junior college systems of the area. Through radio, newspaper, and television announcements, the general public was requested to participate by writing or calling for a form. Forms were picked up after a short period by the Commission from distribution points while the general public mailed in responses. Tabulations and analyses were conducted by the staff of the Commission.

THE SURVEY

Approximately 15,000 survey forms were dispersed; of these, 50 percent were answered and returned. However, due to incompleteness and contradictory replies, only 33 percent were considered adequate for recording; therefore, on each chart except the "Composite Chart", the total figure represents only the questionnaires (33%) that were tabulated.

It should be pointed out that the survey revealed no opposition to either a four year college on the Coast or to offering classes in higher education. Some of the more favorable comments appeared on forms that were not tabulated because many questions were unanswered or in their zeal to fill all blanks, some responses appeared contradictory. This was the major reason so many forms were considered unusable. Even people who were not interested in going to college, overwhelmingly voiced their support for such an institution.

Information was recorded under four different categories: (1) HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: (2) COLLEGE STUDENTS: (3) TEACHERS: and (4) THE GENERAL PUBLIC. A "COMPOSITE" consisting of all categories combined was also constructed. It was necessary to devise a separate chart for each category, in consideration of the varied levels of applicability of respondents. An example: high school students were not considered for attendance in graduate school. Therefore, it was not necessary to enter this statement on the high school student's chart. Other variations were of course, accommodated.

PROBATIONAL SURVEY

A certain degree of unreliability anticipated was at the high school junior level, attributable to an understandable lack of certainty concerning career selection. More reliable attendance projections were anticipated from senior class students and adults for whom participation would be more immediate.

Responses from high school students were tabulated and evaluated on a county basis. A total of 1,708 high school students replied affirmatively that they would attend a four year institution on the Coast if degrees were obtainable.

Miss. Coll. Coast Jr. College.....	164	57
1. Would attend college on the Coast if they could get a degree here.....	188	41
2. Could not afford to leave the Coast but could afford college if they lived at home.....	188	45
3. Would attend college on the Coast if they could get a degree here.....	188	35
4. Not interested in receiving a degree from an institution on the Coast.....	188	43
5. Preferred day classes.....	188	81
6. Preferred night classes.....	22	2
7. Would attend night school if a degree was made available. (Note: Some who preferred day classes are included in this figure.).....	188	82
8. Number that would not attend night school on the Coast.....	52	23

Total and all items of figures will add up to total figure, attributable to partial or incomplete responses

EDUCATIONAL SURVEY

Hancock County

High School Students

	NUMBER	PERCENT
1. Total number of tabulated answers.....	246	100
2. Plan to attend a college other than Pearl River Jr. College or Miss. Gulf Coast Jr. College.....	144	67
3. Plan to attend only Pearl River Jr. College or Miss. Gulf Coast Jr. College.....	102	41
4. Financially able to leave the Coast to attend college but would not.....	72	29
5. Could not afford to leave the Coast but could afford college if they lived at home.....	100	40
6. Would attend college on the Coast if they could get a degree here.....	140	56
7. Not interested in receiving a degree from an institution on the Coast.....	106	43
8. Preferred day classes.....	199	81
9. Preferred night classes.....	23	9
10. Would attend night school if a degree was made available. (Note: some who preferred day classes are included in this figure.).....	156	63
11. Number that would not attend night school to obtain a degree.....	53	22

Note: not all sets of figures will add up to total figure, attributable to partial or incomplete response

EDUCATIONAL SURVEY

Harrison County

High School Students	NUMBER	PERCENT
1. Total number of tabulated answers.....	1,431	100%
2. Plan to attend a college other than Pearl River Jr. College or Miss. Gulf Coast Jr. College.....	916	64
3. Plan to attend only Pearl River Jr. College or Miss. Gulf Coast Jr. College.....	515	36
4. Financially able to leave the Coast to attend college but would not.....	610	43
5. Could not afford to leave the Coast but could afford college if they lived at home.....	280	20
6. Would attend college on the Coast if they could get a degree here.....	842	58
7. Not interested in receiving a degree from an institution on the Coast.....	19	1
8. Preferred day classes.....	1,221	85
9. Preferred night classes.....	199	14
10. Would attend night school if a degree was made available. (Note: some who preferred day classes are included in this figure.).....	1,016	70
11. Number that would not attend night school to obtain a degree.....	321	22

Note: not all sets of figures will add up to total figure, attributable to partial or incomplete response

EDUCATIONAL SURVEY

Jackson County

High School Students

	NUMBER	PERCENT
1. Total number of tabulated answers.....	941	100
2. Plan to attend a college other than Pearl River Jr. College or Miss. Gulf Coast Jr. College.....	568	60
3. Plan to attend only Pearl River Jr. College or Miss. Gulf Coast Jr. College.....	373	40
4. Financially able to leave the Coast to attend college but would not.....	246	26
5. Could not afford to leave the Coast but could afford college if they lived at home.....	363	38
6. Would attend college on the Coast if they could get a degree here.....	574	61
7. Not interested in receiving a degree from an institution on the Coast.....	24	3
8. Preferred day classes.....	774	82
9. Preferred night classes.....	141	15
10. Would attend night school if a degree was made available. (Note: some who preferred day classes are included in this figure.).....	600	64
11. Number that would not attend night school to obtain a degree.....	276	29

Note: not all sets of figures will add up to total figure, attributable to partial or incomplete response

EDUCATIONAL SURVEY

Pearl River County

High School Students

	NUMBER	PERCENT
1. Total number of tabulated answers.....	173	100
2. Plan to attend a college other than Pearl River Jr. College or Miss. Gulf Coast Jr. College.....	132	76
3. Plan to attend only Pearl River Jr. College or Miss. Gulf Coast Jr. College.....	38	22
4. Financially able to leave the Coast to attend college but would not.....	36	21
5. Could not afford to leave the Coast but could afford college if they lived at home.....	72	42
6. Would attend college on the Coast if they could get a degree here.....	152	88
7. Not interested in receiving a degree from an institution on the Coast.....	21	12
8. Preferred day classes.....	159	91
9. Preferred night classes.....	12	7
10. Would attend night school if a degree was made available. (Note: some who preferred day classes are included in this figure.).....	91	53
11. Number that would not attend night school to obtain a degree.....	68	39

Note: not all sets of figures will add up to total figure, attributable to partial or incomplete response

Survey forms were distributed at all campuses of the Gulf Coast Junior College and at Pearl River Junior College. These students will probably prove to be the more reliable source since most of them are already attending college on the Coast, indicating they would continue their education here if possible. Out of a total 1,179 tabulated questionnaires 71 percent expressed a desire to receive a degree on the Gulf Coast. 77 percent said they would also attend graduate school here.

1. Plan to attend only Pearl River Jr. College or Miss. Gulf Coast Jr. College	828	71
2. Plan to attend only Pearl River Jr. College or Miss. Gulf Coast Jr. College	124	11
3. Would attend college on the Coast if they could get a degree here	840	72
4. Not interested in receiving a degree from an institution on the Coast	27	2
5. Preferred day classes	974	83
6. Preferred night classes	61	5
7. Would attend night school if a degree was made available. Those who preferred day classes are included in this figure	850	72
8. Would not attend night school to obtain a degree	124	11
9. Would be interested in pursuing graduate work on the Coast	911	77
10. Not interested in pursuing graduate work on the Coast	130	11

* Percentages were rounded the nearest 100%. Also rounded at their source, consequently percentages figured would be slightly different as they would not be based upon the total number tabulated. When not all sets of figures will add up to total figures, attributable to partial or incomplete responses.

EDUCATIONAL SURVEY

College Students	NUMBER	PERCENT
1. Total number of tabulated answers.....	1,179	100
2. Members of family (including self) attending college away from home.....	911	---*
3. Would attend college on the Coast and live at home.....	483	---*
4. Would not attend college on the Coast if available.....	428	---*
5. Plan to attend a college other than Pearl River Jr. College or Miss. Gulf Coast Jr. College.....	855	73
6. Plan to attend only Pearl River Jr. College or Miss. Gulf Coast Jr. College.....	324	27
7. Would attend college on the Coast if they could get a degree here.....	840	71
8. Not interested in receiving a degree from an institution on the Coast.....	17	1
9. Preferred day classes.....	1,074	91
10. Preferred night classes.....	61	5
11. Would attend night school if a degree was made available. (Some who preferred day classes are included in this figure).....	855	72
12. Would not attend night school to obtain a degree.....	233	20
13. Would be interested in pursuing graduate work on the Coast.....	911	77
14. Not interested in pursuing graduate work on the Coast.....	150	13

* Include students who answered the survey form, plus members of their family, consequently percentage figures would be misleading as they would not be based upon the total number tabulated.

Note: not all sets of figures will add up to total figure, attributable to partial or incomplete responses.

It was anticipated that teachers would exhibit the greatest interest in establishment of an institution of higher learning within the area. In the State of Mississippi, teachers who do not possess a Master's degree must renew their teaching certificates every five years by taking an additional six semester hours at an accredited college. For teachers with a Master's degree, renewal is required every ten years. Of the 625 teachers who responded to the survey, 90 percent indicated they would continue their education by attending a graduate school in the Gulf Coast area if one were available.

EDUCATIONAL SURVEY

Teachers	NUMBER	PERCENT
1. Total number of tabulated answers.....	625	100
2. Members of family (including self) that would attend college on the Coast if available.....	508	---
3. Would not attend college on the Coast if available.....	50	---
4. Would like to pursue graduate work on the Coast.....	564	90
5. Would not like to pursue graduate work on the Coast.....	36	6
6. Preferred day classes.....	70	11
7. Preferred night classes.....	555	89

It should be noted that statements 2 & 3 include persons who answered the survey form plus members of their family. Consequently percentage figures would be misleading as they would not be based upon the total number tabulated.

It is further noted that not all sets of figures will add up to total figure, due to some questions being left blank.

Respondents who did not logically fit into one of the three previous categories were placed in a category labeled "GENERAL PUBLIC". This group consists of private citizens who were contacted by civic and professional organizations. Persons in this category were genuinely in favor of a degree granting college on the Gulf Coast although approximately 14 percent could not foresee personal enrollment. The group nevertheless exhibited a great amount of support for the successful establishment of a degree granting Gulf Coast College.

EDUCATIONAL SURVEY

General Public	NUMBER	PERCENT
1. Total number of answers tabulated.....	538	100
2. Members of family (including self) that attend college away from home.....	458	----*
3. Would attend college on the Coast if a degree was available.....	646	----*
4. Would not attend college on the Coast even if a degree was made available.....	22	----*
5. Preferred day classes.....	241	45
6. Preferred night classes.....	406	75
7. Would like to pursue graduate work on the Coast.....	474	88
8. Would not pursue graduate work on the Coast.....	64	12

* Statements 2,3 and 4 include persons who answered the survey plus members of their family, consequently percentage figures would be misleading as they would not be based upon total number tabulated. Not all sets of figures will add up to total figure, due to some questions being left blank.

A "Composite Chart" combining figures presented in the preceding charts provides an excellent over-all picture of the support Gulf Park University Center can expect if the Center is permitted to issue degrees in the near future. 3,194 persons in the four-county Region indicated they would enroll in a college of degree granting status if indeed the Coast did acquire a four year institution. A total of 1,949 persons expressed a desire to attend graduate school.

EDUCATIONAL SURVEY

Composite Chart	NUMBER	PERCENT
1. Total number of survey forms distributed...	15,000	
2. Total number of questionnaires answered.....	7,881	
<hr/>		
*3. Total number of survey forms tabulated.....	5,133	100
4. Would attend a college on the Coast if a degree was available.....	3,194	62
5. Preferred day classes.....	3,738	73
6. Preferred night classes.....	1,397	27
7. Would attend night school in order to obtain a degree. (Note: Some who preferred day classes are included in this figure.).....	2,718	55
8. Would pursue graduate work on the Coast....	1,949	38

*Forms that were incomplete and/or contradictory were not tabulated.

Those courses preferred by "survey constituents" have been listed in the "APPENDIX", and the number of choices for each particular field have been enumerated accordingly. Leading fields of interests were education and business, respectively. The "Appendix" will be of value to the University Center officials in determining courses most desired by residents of the study area.

With over 3,000 persons reflecting an interest in attending Gulf Park, a review of the facility's capacity should be considered. Gulf Park can presently accommodate 400 students at any given period during the day under normal conditions. Capacity could be expanded to 680 students by utilizing available space not ordinarily used for classrooms. Through operation of a day school and a night school the University Center could enroll a maximum of 1,360 pupils. After a relatively short existence the University Center could conceivably become over-crowded. Future demands for education at the freshman and sophomore levels are certain to expand with population growth and ultimately the Coast will need full university facilities with extensive research capabilities. That a full four year institution could be supported without adverse effect on the present junior college system is demonstrated by the continued rapid expansion of Hinds Junior College although located in close proximity of several degree granting schools. With a present four county population in excess of 267,000, an adequate base already exists to justify and support (in number of students) a four year institution without any diminutive effect on the enrollment at the junior college campuses. Certainly, planning for ten to twenty years in the future, a four year university

system for this area is not an unrealistic goal. The immediate objective, however, is to make available junior, senior, and graduate courses culminating in degrees that could be granted without leaving the Coast.

The state of Mississippi has two standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA), one covering the urban area of Jackson, the other covering the Gulfport-Biloxi urbanized area. The University of Mississippi Medical School is located at Jackson, which is also served by five senior colleges. By contrast, the Coastal area has no four year college. The Gulfport-Biloxi urbanized area and the two adjacent counties of Hancock and Jackson, have a combined population total of 239,944, projected to reach 306,462 by 1980. Thus it appears there is already a substantial local student population that would attend a Coastal college; it is reasonable to assume that additional students from outside the region would be attracted to the Coast, attracted in part by the physical characteristics and resort atmosphere.

Economic impact of a four year college is highly important. A recent study conducted by the business bureau of the University of Southern Mississippi, revealed that the USM contribution to the economy of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, exceeds 32 million dollars per year. A senior college on the Coast could generate additional economic activity comparable to a major new industry in the area.

COMMENTS OF RESPONDENTS

Each respondent was requested to express his or her opinion as to how they felt in regard to the placement of an institution of higher education here on the Gulf Coast. There follows a sym-

posium of some statements compiled from the various comments that were submitted which are typical of the many that were received.

- A person meeting the 48 hours on campus requirement while attending night school at the University of Southern Mississippi would be required to drive approximately 200 miles each school night twice a week for 6 quarters. The total driving distance to complete the requirement is about 26,000 miles with an equivalent driving time equal to working 10 weeks at 40 hours per week. The cost at 10¢ per mile would be \$2,600. This does not consider the intangible danger of having an accident somewhere enroute.
- There should not be any doubt in one's mind regarding the need for a degree granting university system on the Gulf Coast, with three junior college campuses increasing enrollment and expanding programs each year to meet the needs of those wishing a higher education the need is quite evident.
- Graduate work is very necessary on the Coast for teachers; the new class accreditation standards require that 15 percent of the teachers have masters degree.
- Certainly the desirability of living at home would cut costs of a college education immensely, especially when four children are to be considered.
- A degree granting institution on the Coast would surely be a credit for the many students who are forced to either move to colleges up state or have to bear the expense of commuting.
- Citizens on the Coast have heard a lot of verbalization but no valid reason for there not being a degree granting center in this area.
- The time has come for a change, the opening of Gulf Park is a start; but the additional granting of degrees must be a swift second step.
- If the quality of life is to improve on the Coast and professional people are to be retained, then advance courses leading to the presentation of credentials must be established.
- The minds and energies of our college bound Coast citizens are a great natural resource, a resource which is presently being tapped by other cities.
- It would be better to have one degree granting college (University of Southern Mississippi) instead of three different schools teaching at the same location.
- With three children in college and one to graduate from high school this year, with others to follow, a Gulf Coast College (4 year) would be God sent!

- A four year degree granting college on the Coast would help many and would not be detrimental to the fine junior college programs on the Coast.
- A degree granting university is needed on the Coast. It should have been established years ago.
- For complete growth of this area we need and must have a degree institution here on the Coast.
- As things stand now, it is very difficult for the average housewife and mother to complete a higher level of education. Because of time, expense, and distance involved only one course can be taken per quarter at the University of Southern Mississippi.
- The junior colleges would be a supplement to a four year degree granting college.
- Being a family man it would be of great value to have a college that would permit a person to receive a degree without leaving the area.
- Attending night classes from the University of Southern Mississippi is an awfully slow process by which to obtain a degree.
- A university on the Coast with a high academic standing would be very beneficial to students and non-students in the area.
- A university would bring in more revenue, keep young people here and also entice young people from other areas.
- The Coast should have a university so that students would not have so far to travel.
- If there were a university locally, the economy would be boosted by retaining the students and the money they spend.
- It is impossible to drive to the University of Southern Mississippi three nights per week and to work five days a week.
- A full fledged university is a necessary requirement for the Gulf Coast.

CONCLUSIONS

Statistics shown in this report lead to a conclusion that an institution of higher learning would receive overwhelming support from Citizens within the Region. A university of accredited stand-

ing offering degrees at the bachelor, master and doctoral level is of vital importance to social and economic development of the Region. Several unquestionable conclusions that can be drawn from this study are:

- A degree granting institution is justified in response to present and future needs of a population already exceeding 260,000.
- More people would obtain a higher level of education if there were a degree granting institution on the Coast. Many respondents stated they would get a degree on the Coast, but would not go elsewhere to do so. Correlations between education and income, demonstrated in other areas, could be expected to apply to the region.
- The demand for graduate work from the teachers in the area would justify the establishment of a graduate school, particularly one which would grant masters and doctorate degrees in the field of education.
- The creation of a four year college would enhance and favorably influence cultural activities and attractions.
- It is conceivable that a four year accredited college would attract as many students from outside the Region as within the Region.
- The need for facilities for higher education in the area is already pressing, and will continue as the number who enroll in colleges each year increases substantially.

Following compilation and evaluation of responses to the survey, an opportunity was afforded interested persons and agencies to review the findings and to respond thereto. It was anticipated that the scope and complexity of the issues raised in the survey might well lead to some misunderstandings of the purposes and conclusions, and it was the intent of the Commission that every effort would be made to clarify issues which might be controversial in nature.

Two position papers are included in the Appendix, each dealing with the major concern of the survey. The papers, one from Dr. J. J.

Hayden, President, Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College District,
and Dr. Robert L. Johnson, President, Gulf Park College, are
reproduced in their entirety and incorporated into the final
report.



GULF PARK COLLEGE
 1000 BEACH, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA 33139
 January 27, 1977

Dr. Jack Dillard
 Executive Director
 Gulf Breeze Planning Committee
 P. O. Box 1745
 Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

Dear Mr. Dillard:

It is gratifying that in response to your agency's recent request for information regarding the proposed site for a new campus, you have expressed your interest in the proposed site.

The staff of Gulf Park College is pleased to be able to provide you with the information requested. We are currently in the process of preparing a site plan for the proposed campus of 100 acres on the site of the former site of the Gulf Park College campus in Gulf Breeze, Florida. **APPENDIX** to the site plan is attached for your information. We are currently in the process of preparing a site plan for the proposed campus of 100 acres on the site of the former site of the Gulf Park College campus in Gulf Breeze, Florida.

By personal invitation to the site, the impact generated by the activities surrounding the recreation, and the great efforts being made by legislators, civic organizations, private citizens, governmental units, educators and interested citizens, we have reason to feel confident that the establishment of a new campus of Gulf Park College on the site will soon become a reality.

Consequently, we are all interested parties envisioning the new location, site, design and size. It would be a remarkable coincidence, indeed, if 250,000 people agreed completely on anything. It is hoped that we will continue to work together for the "greatest good for the greatest number" and separate fully to this exciting educational adventure.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Johnson
 Robert L. Johnson
 President

RLJ:ls



GULF PARK COLLEGE
 A JUNIOR COLLEGE FOR YOUNG WOMEN
 LONG BEACH, MISSISSIPPI 39560

OFFICE OF THE
 PRESIDENT

January 27, 1972

Mr. Jack Different
 Executive Director
 Gulf Regional Planning Committee
 P. O. Box 1345
 Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

Dear Mr. Different:

It is gratifying, but no surprise, that your agency's Educational Survey indicates great interest by Coast residents in a local degree granting institution to complement our excellent junior colleges.

The Gulf Park College campus was deeded to the College Board by the Gulf Park College Board of Trustees for the express purpose of filling an obviously acute need for upper division university education on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

My personal conviction is that far too many deserving young people and adults of this area have been deprived of education beyond junior college because of financial and distance limitations.

Now, with the acquisition of a site, the impetus generated by the publicity accompanying the transaction, and the great effort being made by legislators, civic organizations, service clubs, governmental units, educators and interested citizens, we have reason to feel confident that the establishment of a degree granting institution on the Coast will soon become a reality.

Obviously, not all interested parties envision exactly the same location, type, control and size, etc. It would be a remarkable coincidence, indeed, if 250,000 people agreed completely on anything. It is hoped that we will continue to work together for the "greatest good for the greatest number" and cooperate fully on this exciting educational adventure.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Johnson
 Robert L. Johnson
 President

RLJ:lc

Position Paper on the Gulf Regional Planning Commission Educational Survey Developed by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College, Dr. J.J. Hayden, Jr., President.

January 25, 1972

INTRODUCTION

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College strongly supports a degree granting upper division university on the Gulf Coast. The Educational Survey conducted by the Gulf Regional Planning Commission purported to be a study of the need for an educational program beyond the junior college level. By various statements and conclusions they state support for a full four-year institution which obviously duplicates the freshman and sophomore academic program now operating at the three campuses of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College and at Pearl River Junior College.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the position paper is to highlight the duplication of facilities, a comparison of taxpayer support and student costs, and to explore an alternative recommendation, the upper division university.

FACTS

1. The study indicates a need exists for education above the junior college level and degree-granting capability on the Gulf Coast.
2. With adequate public support and current planned expansion programs the junior colleges of this area can accomodate the

freshman and sophomore academic needs at minimum cost. Duplication of freshman and sophomore academic capability appeals to represent poor utilization of public funds.

3. At the present time the Jefferson Davis Campus comprises 120 acres and the Jackson County Campus 130 acres. This land was purchased with public funds to meet a planned expansion program developed by a nationally known educational consultant firm, the Associated Consultants in Education, to meet the future projected enrollments and educational needs at the freshman and sophomore levels. The Perkinston Campus and Pearl River Junior College campus have unlimited expansion capabilities without the purchase of additional land. These studies and surveys started in 1958 and have continued to the present time.

4. In accordance with the above plans, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College opened the Jefferson Davis Campus and the Jackson County Campus in 1965, providing a nucleus of buildings for an orderly and planned growth of academic and related facilities. Current net worth of the three campuses is 12 million dollars. As part of a current 10-year building program--1968-78--we plan a further expansion of \$6,000,000.

- 5. An analysis of state appropriations for 1971 reveal:
 - a. The eight public senior colleges received \$472.00 per FTSE for capital pay.
 - b. The 16 public junior colleges received \$218.00 per FISE.
 - c. The eight public senior colleges received \$1,000.00 per FTSE for operating cost.
 - d. The 16 public junior colleges received \$377.00 per FTSE.

6. The basic student fees in a junior college are approximately 50% of the senior college.

7. Further growth in the academic enrollments in the junior colleges of this area will enhance even more the cost effectiveness of junior college operations, thereby making each tax dollar more far reaching. Any diversions of freshman and sophomore enrollments will adversely affect the most economic operation of the junior colleges.

8. From a study of the survey, it is apparent that higher educational needs are still unmet on the Gulf Coast. However, traditional thought and the construction of the questionnaire itself would lead the average respondent to think only of a four-year institution as the sole solution to satisfaction of these educational needs.

Other solutions should be considered.

Another solution is the upper division university similar to that found in Florida, Illinois, Texas and other states. There are approximately 25 such institutions in the United States. These institutions take advantage of the junior college output in their areas, rather than competing with them for students and tax dollars. Critics and supporters alike recognize the economies of this system.

When the Gulf Park College closed, a public outcry arose for a four-year degree granting college on the coast. This was a major issue during the recent elections. A new dimension arose on the horizon; that the upper division degree granting university offering junior and senior work and graduate work. The tone of public opinion changed. The enthusiasm, even the demand for a

degree granting institution remains. A ground swell of support for the upper division institution has manifested itself, resulting in proposed legislation being submitted to the State Legislature with 67 supporting names on it. It appears that this is the will of the people.

CONCLUSIONS

1. We do not argue with the statistics resulting from responses to the questionnaire.
2. We do believe that more than one option should have been considered to satisfy the educational needs identified.
3. From our independent investigation it appears that the upper division institution, complementing the existing and planned junior college capabilities will result in the most efficient, cost effective educational operation in the region.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend an upper division university be established on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

(Comments, if any, should be added on back of report)

PR
PC

GULF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

SERVING PEARL RIVER, HANCOCK, HARRISON AND JACKSON COUNTIES OF MISS.

POST OFFICE BOX 1346
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 38601

TELEPHONE (601) 864-1167

OCCUPATION _____ SEX _____ COUNTY _____ AGE _____

1. How many members of your family presently attend college away from home? (including yourself) _____
2. If available, would they (or you) attend college on the Coast and live at home? _____
3. Do you plan to attend a college other than Pearl River Junior College or any Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College? _____
4. If your answer to question 3 is "no", is this due to financial limitations? _____ Could you afford college if you could live at home? _____
5. If your answer to question 3 is "yes", would you attend college on the Coast if you could get a degree here? _____
6. Would you be inclined to attend day classes or night classes? _____
7. Would you attend night classes and work toward a degree if you could do so without leaving home? _____
8. What level of education have you attained thus far? _____
9. Would you like to pursue graduate work on the Coast? _____
10. What fields of study would you be interested in?
First and Second Choice:
Undergraduate
 (1) _____
 (2) _____
Graduate
 (1) _____
 (2) _____

(Comments, if any, should be added on back of sheet).

GR
PC

FIELDS OF STUDY

COURSE	CHOICE	HI-SCHOOL	JR. COLLEGE		TEACHERS		OTHERS		TOTALS
			UNGRAD.	GRAD.	UNGRAD.	GRAD.	UNGRAD.	GRAD.	
Accounting	1st	3	18	11	-	-	3	3	38
	2nd	-	10	5	-	-	2	4	21
Administration	1st	133	-	2	4	42	10	32	233
	2nd	52	-	-	4	37	2	16	116
Architecture	1st	30	6	6	-	-	4	-	46
	2nd	10	3	2	-	-	2	-	17
Arts	1st	99	46	16	4	7	13	2	182
	2nd	38	25	10	1	4	9	-	82
Biology	1st	5	6	4	4	4	-	-	23
	2nd	3	2	2	3	2	-	-	12
Business	1st	296	231	99	8	18	89	75	816
	2nd	102	110	36	5	6	16	16	291
Chemistry	1st	-	4	3	-	1	-	-	8
	2nd	4	2	3	1	-	1	-	11
Computer Science	1st	50	8	7	1	-	3	1	70
	2nd	26	11	8	1	-	4	1	51
Communications	1st	1	10	6	-	1	-	-	18
	2nd	3	6	2	-	-	-	-	11
Dentistry	1st	10	1	-	-	-	1	-	12
	2nd	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ecology	1st	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	2nd	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Economics	1st	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	4
	2nd	-	2	-	-	62	5	1	10
Education	1st	196	154	80	63	152	99	145	899
	2nd	110	77	35	12	89	35	37	395
Engineering	1st	159	24	21	1	2	7	7	221
	2nd	44	9	8	-	1	5	6	73
English	1st	37	13	9	11	55	11	9	145
	2nd	18	17	7	6	9	7	2	66

FIELDS OF STUDY
CONTINUED

COURSE	CHOICE	HI-SCHOOL	JR. COLLEGE		TEACHERS		OTHERS		TOTALS
			UNGRAD.	GRAD.	UNGRAD.	GRAD.	UNGRAD.	GRAD.	
Forestry	1st	24	1	3	-	-	-	-	28
	2nd	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	12
Geography	1st	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	9
	2nd	-	-	-	-	1	1	8	10
Geology	1st	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
	2nd	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Guidance	1st	-	-	9	2	82	4	14	111
	2nd	-	-	4	2	21	2	3	32
History	1st	2	10	5	3	2	4	2	28
	2nd	-	15	10	3	3	11	4	46
Home Economics	1st	17	15	3	-	12	-	2	49
	2nd	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	6
Industrial Arts	1st	2	2	1	2	13	5	5	30
	2nd	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	4
Journalism	1st	22	15	5	-	-	-	4	46
	2nd	5	3	-	-	1	2	1	12
Language	1st	6	6	3	4	9	1	6	35
	2nd	3	5	2	2	6	3	4	25
Law	1st	67	-	53	-	6	4	5	135
	2nd	40	-	6	-	1	2	5	54
Law-Enforcement	1st	17	13	-	-	-	3	-	33
	2nd	9	6	-	1	-	1	-	17
Library Science	1st	3	2	3	3	22	6	11	50
	2nd	3	1	2	2	7	1	-	16
Liberal Arts	1st	97	-	-	1	-	10	10	118
	2nd	23	-	-	2	-	6	5	36
Math	1st	84	12	16	12	38	19	15	196
	2nd	39	14	12	5	12	13	8	103
Management	1st	-	5	1	-	2	6	8	22
	2nd	-	5	2	-	1	2	-	10
Marine-Biology	1st	79	14	16	1	4	3	8	125
	2nd	22	4	4	-	-	4	3	37

FIELDS OF STUDY
CONTINUED

COURSE	CHOICE	HI-SCHOOL	JR. COLLEGE		TEACHERS		OTHERS		TOTALS
			UNGRAD.	GRAD.	UNGRAD.	GRAD.	UNGRAD.	GRAD.	
Marketing	1st	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
	2nd	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Medicine	1st	-	-	28	-	1	-	1	30
	2nd	-	-	10	-	1	-	-	11
Medical	1st	12	3	-	-	1	-	-	16
Technology	2nd	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	9
Military	1st	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Science	2nd	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Nursing	1st	98	65	43	2	5	10	7	230
	2nd	37	20	5	2	2	2	-	68
P.E.	1st	55	23	5	4	33	4	10	134
	2nd	44	12	6	6	3	2	-	73
Pharmacy	1st	7	-	-	1	-	-	-	8
	2nd	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Physical- Therapy	1st	-	4	3	1	-	-	-	8
	2nd	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	4
Pre-Law	1st	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	11
	2nd	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	9
Pre-Med	1st	87	8	-	1	-	4	-	100
	2nd	21	8	-	1	-	-	-	30
Political Science	1st	36	11	2	-	8	9	2	68
	2nd	20	15	6	-	1	5	3	50
Psychology	1st	35	22	19	3	10	19	13	121
	2nd	31	31	20	5	17	14	7	125
Planning	1st	-	-	-	-	-	4	10	14
	2nd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reading	1st	-	-	-	2	19	-	1	22
	2nd	1	-	-	1	11	-	-	13
Religion	1st	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
	2nd	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2

FIELDS OF STUDY
CONTINUED

COURSE	CHOICE	HI-SCHOOL	JR. COLLEGE		TEACHERS		OTHERS		TOTALS
			UNGRAD.	GRAD.	UNGRAD.	GRAD.	UNGRAD.	GRAD.	
Science	1st	125	37	11	23	8	18	7	229
	2nd	54	27	8	11	6	11	3	120
Social Studies	1st	82	21	8	5	33	12	13	175
	2nd	29	30	11	11	21	6	8	116
Sociology	1st	45	18	17	3	1	9	6	99
	2nd	20	19	9	-	-	15	5	68
Speech	1st	5	1	1	3	3	1	10	24
	2nd	1	-	-	4	2	1	2	10
Technology	1st	128	26	3	2	-	-	-	159
	2nd	77	21	5	2	-	-	-	105
Veterinary Science	1st	17	2	3	-	-	-	-	22
	2nd	9	1	1	-	-	-	-	11
Wildlife and Agriculture	1st	12	-	2	1	-	1	-	16
	2nd	6	1	1	-	-	-	-	8