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# A Survey of Seniors and Boards of Education Concerning the Junior College Movement - Fayette County, Illinois

Jimmie D. Page

*Eastern Illinois University*

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A SURVEY OF SENIORS AND BOARDS OF EDUCATION CONCERNING  
THE JUNIOR COLLEGE MOVEMENT - FAYETTE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
(TITLE)

BY

JIMMIE D. PAGE  
B. S., MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY  
M. A. in ADMN., MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

FIELD STUDY  
~~THESIS~~

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR THE DEGREE OF

SPECIALIST IN EDUCATION

IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL, EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS

1973

YEAR

I HEREBY RECOMMEND THIS THESIS BE ACCEPTED AS FULFILLING  
THIS PART OF THE GRADUATE DEGREE CITED ABOVE

11-17-72  
DATE

12/21/73  
DATE

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### The Purpose of the Study

This survey was designed to determine the opinions of Fayette County, Illinois students and members of boards of education concerning the junior college movement in Illinois. One of the prime objectives of this survey was to obtain the opinions of the respondents when given the choice of joining one of the two closest junior college districts.

The general areas of concentration in the survey are:

1. Current knowledge of the junior college movement.
2. How well are Fayette County schools informing seniors of

the opportunities provided by public junior colleges.

3. Opinions concerning legislation forcing all of Illinois into junior college districts.
4. Which junior college district or districts should Fayette County schools join?

The survey covers attitudes in the areas of high school counseling and information, curriculum and the quality of the programs, finance, legislation, entrance requirements, and who should be allowed to attend the junior colleges.

Other issues dealt with are opinions pertaining to annexing a junior college district and some of the factors to be considered before annexation. A statement concerning campus visitation was included to determine those opinions which could be validated by actual on-sight inspection of the facilities in question.

Several items were included to ascertain the feelings as to just who should determine the junior college district joined by the local public school district. An opportunity was also given for each respondent to choose

between the two junior colleges nearest to Fayette County.

Since no public school district in Fayette County is presently included in a junior college district, and in view of recent legislation mandating that all of Illinois be included in junior college districts by August 1, 1974, the results of this survey could be used by boards of education as decisions are made regarding annexation to a junior college district.

Citizens' Advisory Committees may find information included in this study that will be of value as they become involved in the junior college issue. The information derived from this study could also be helpful to counselors and any school personnel involved in disseminating information to students.

#### The Sample

The sample used in this survey includes all the students who were designated as seniors by their high schools in May, 1972, and the boards of education in Fayette County, Illinois.

These two groups should be most interested in the junior college movement because of the direct effect of the movement upon the students and boards of education. This interest should cause the groups to become well informed on the junior college movement. Because of these

factors, these two groups should be influential and perhaps be reflective of the general attitudes of the total population of the county.

The sample includes returns from two hundred forty graduating seniors and twenty eight board members. This sample should be representative of most any rural county of comparable size in Illinois.

### The Instrument

The instrument was designed to obtain a maximum amount of information concerning the junior college picture in the East Central Illinois County of Fayette. Some of the questions asked for answers based upon facts about the Illinois Junior College Program, while others dealt with obtaining "grass roots" opinions of the respondents.

As was previously mentioned, a primary aim of the instrument was to determine to which junior college district the respondent felt that his or her school district should seek annexation. There were two logical choices for the Fayette County Schools. Due to this fact, no other alternatives were offered.

Some questions within the survey form may seem repetitive. This repetition was incorporated to determine if the respondents were reading each statement thoroughly before answering. No item was designed to



trick the respondents or in any way slant the results of the survey.

The respondents were allowed to select one of four choices. It was felt that if a person did not know anything about the statement, then "Don't Know" would be a better choice than "No Opinion." The form was limited to forty statements for speed in completion by the respondents.

The survey instrument was constructed by the author of this paper. Dr. G. C. Matzner, Department of Educational Administration, Eastern Illinois University, reviewed the instrument on three different occasions and suggested changes and additions. After the final review by Dr. Matzner, the survey form was field tested on a group of fifteen high school juniors to determine if the instrument could be easily read and understood by students. The field testing was timed to establish an approximate time which would be needed for administering the survey. As a result of the field testing, one hour was set as the maximum amount of time that would be allocated for completion of the questionnaire.

A copy of the questionnaire is included in the Appendix of this paper. The statements on the form were kept simple in design to prevent misunderstanding on the part of the respondents who might not be aware of many of the terms pertaining to the junior college movement.

Members of the boards of education were not asked to react to item number twenty-two (22) which deals specifically with student - counselor relations.

#### Procedure

The questionnaires used in this study were distributed to the seniors during the week of May 22-26, 1972. The reason for this late date in the school year was to allow the maximum amount of time for each senior to be exposed to junior college information via the local school personnel and the media.

Each of the five high schools was visited by the author of this paper on a different day. After the seniors were assembled as a group, the questionnaires were distributed and the instructions given. One hour was allowed for distribution, instructions, and completion of the survey form by the respondents. All forms were taken up immediately upon completion. The questionnaires were administered by the author of this paper.

Members of the boards of education were mailed the questionnaires June 5, 1972. Also, each district superintendent was asked and consented to remind his board members to return the forms. The district superintendents did remind their boards to return the forms during their July and August board meetings. A second mailing of the questionnaire was sent to all board

members urging those who had not returned the initial form to please complete and return the second one.

During the month of October, the district superintendents were again asked to request that their board members help with the survey by answering and returning the survey at their earliest convenience. All mailings included a stamped-self-addressed envelop for convenience in returning the form. No further attempt was made to obtain the forms from the board members.

No person was asked to sign the form. Students were requested to give the name of their school. Board members were not asked to sign the questionnaire or give the name of the school they represented.

Every senior that was given a questionnaire completed the form and returned it. The percentage of seniors participating in the survey was eighty (80). The remaining twenty (20) percent did not have the opportunity to participate since they were either absent from school or attending classes at the area vocational center during the time of administering the survey. Due to the late date of administering the survey, no attempt was made to include the seniors not present at the time of the administration of the form. The seniors were very cooperative and completed the forms without hesitation.

Much encouragement and follow-up was necessary to get the eighty (80) percent response from the board

members. It is the feeling of the author, after talking with some board members, that many of them did not respond because they feared that their opinions could some way become public or be discovered by their constituents. As was previously stated, no effort was made to match the survey form with any board member.

Although this survey did not follow a highly controlled research method, it does provide valuable information which is considered applicable to the majority of the rural counties in Central Illinois. Much of the information, especially that dealing with informing students about junior college opportunities, could reflect the general attitudes of a large portion of students in this state.

The results of the survey may or may not be of merit elsewhere in Illinois, and caution is urged in applying the results to an entirely different population.

## CHAPTER II

## SURVEY RESULTS

The survey results have been arbitrarily placed in thirteen categories. Each category has a commonality. Within each category, there are specific points relating to the general topic of that category. Some points may relate to more than one category.

The categories included are:

1. Counseling and Information
2. Annexation - Yes or No
3. Quality of Programs
4. Curriculum
5. Accessibility
6. Who Should Attend?
7. Junior College Campus Visitation
8. Legislation
9. Entrance Requirements

10. Finance
11. In-district vs. Out-of-district Students
12. Who Determines the District?
13. Which District?

OPINIONS DEALING WITH COUNSELING  
AND INFORMATION PERTAINING TO JUNIOR COLLEGES

In order for graduates of our high schools to become aware of the Junior College Program in Illinois, they must be informed. The logical source of information for these students is the counselor or some other qualified staff member. The logical time for the dissemination of this information is while the student is in school and more or less a captive audience.

Many times our students do not take advantage of the various benefits and privileges available because they are not aware of the existence of such. It must become the goal of each school to communicate effectively with its students about areas of mutual concern. Each student's future training and place in the world of work should always be an item of mutual concern.

The number or numbers in parenthesis preceding each statement or question represents the order of that statement's appearance on the opinionnaire. This may

be helpful should one want to take into consideration the influence that item sequence may have had on the respondents' answers. Hopefully, the statements on the form were not arranged so as to exert influence on the respondents.

(2) I am aware of the junior college program in Illinois.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	65	92	69	61
No	24	4	20	28
No Opinion	3.5	0	3	4
Don't Know	7.5	4	8	7

(3) I know the location of the nearest junior college.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	88.5	100	94	83
No	8	0	5	11
No Opinion	2.5	0	1	4
Don't Know	1	0	0	2



(6) I understand the meaning of the term "Junior College Letter of Intent."

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	32	65	28	36
No	44	14	49	39
No Opinion	1	7	0	2
Don't Know	23	14	23	23

(16) Our high school students are well informed about the advantages and disadvantages of the junior college.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	36.5	40	38	35
No	42.5	21	46	39
No Opinion	9	4	5	13
Don't Know	12	35	11	13

- (17) More time should be spent by our schools counseling junior college and technical students.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	60.5	75	62	59
No	14	7	15	13
No Opinion	15.5	7	13	18
Don't Know	10	11	10	10

- (18) Our school provides adequate counseling for all students.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	45	35	51	39
No	39.5	32	35	44
No Opinion	10	12	10	10
Don't Know	5.5	21	4	7

(22) My counselor has discussed junior college attendance with me.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	43.5	-	39	48
No	52	-	59	45
No Opinion	1.5	-	0	3
Don't Know	3	-	2	4

(27) A junior college representative has spoken to seniors of our school explaining the program and costs.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	65	50	66	64
No	22	7	21	23
No Opinion	3.5	0	2	5
Don't Know	9.5	43	11	8

## OPINIONS CONCERNING ANNEXATION

There are those who favor joining a junior college district immediately; those who favor waiting until the Junior College Board assigns all areas to junior college districts, and those who are not in favor of being forced to join any junior college district but desire to remain unattached with the freedom to attend any junior college in the state.

The two statements in this category were designed to determine if the respondents felt their school district should be in a junior college district and if they strongly favor annexation.

The statements were:

- (1) My school district should be in a junior college district.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	52.5	61	62	43
No	22	14	16	28
No Opinion	15.5	14	11	20
Don't Know	10	11	11	9

(20) I strongly favor joining a junior college district.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	38	50	45	31
No	26.5	29	21	32
No Opinion	27	7	26	28
Don't Know	8.5	14	8	9

#### OPINIONS CONCERNING PROGRAM QUALITY

Possibly the one most important factor to be considered when selecting a junior college is the quality of the program. Many areas should be considered when determining the quality. Some items for consideration could be: the academic program, athletic program, vocational program, faculty preparation, and social events.

Each person probably has an opinion as to the determinants of a quality program. This should be con-

sidered in the results of this particular section, since quality was not defined.

(4) The nearest junior college offers a quality curriculum.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	41	75	47	35
No	17	0	12	22
No Opinion	8	7	6	10
Don't Know	34	18	35	33

(9) The junior college tax rate correlates with the quality of the program, i.e. low rate = low quality, etc.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	11.5	4	7	16
No	21.5	54	20	23
No Opinion	13	7	10	16
Don't Know	54	35	63	45

- (10) The students from your school who have attended a junior college have been well prepared in their major field of work.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	27.5	32	22	33
No	13.5	7	13	14
No Opinion	12	14	12	12
Don't Know	47	47	53	41

#### OPINIONS ON CURRICULUM

Most ideas concerning the components of a good curriculum will probably depend upon the attitudes and ideals of the person interviewed. Many favor a strong academic curriculum while others advocate a strong vocational and technical curriculum.

Supply and demand in the trades and professions should continue to play an important role in curriculum trends.

- (7) The junior college should be geared more toward technical training than preparation for a senior college.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	42.5	50	42	43
No	33	32	36	30
No Opinion	13.5	7	12	15
Don't Know	11	11	10	12

- (21) The junior college program should be strictly academic senior college preparation.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	11.5	7	11	12
No	61.5	79	68	55
No Opinion	15.5	7	10	21
Don't Know	11.5	7	11	12



- (23) I am aware of the difference between vocational-technical training and college transfer at junior college.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	68	79	76	60
No	22.5	10	17	28
No Opinion	4	7	1	7
Don't Know	5.5	4	6	5

- (25) Most junior colleges offer an excellent vocational-technical program.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	50.5	47	42	59
No	12.5	7	5	20
No Opinion	11	11	5	17
Don't Know	26	35	48	4

(36) Evening classes are an integral part of the junior college program.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	43	68	38	48
No	7.5	0	6	9
No Opinion	10	11	8	12
Don't Know	39.5	21	48	31

#### ACCESSABILITY

Factors other than the total junior college program may enter the picture when a decision is being made concerning the question "To which junior college district shall we seek annexation?" Two statements for consideration were presented on the questionnaire.

- (8) A school district should consider the junior college program rather than mileage when deciding on joining a junior college district.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	63.5	79	67	60
No	11.5	21	10	13
No Opinion	13.5	0	11	16
Don't Know	11.5	0	12	11

- (15) The Interstate and/or quality of other highways should be considered when choosing a junior college district.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	56.5	82	54	59
No	23	14	27	19
No Opinion	11	0	11	11
Don't Know	9.5	4	8	11

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The public has mixed emotions when the statement concerning two years of education for anyone who desires at the taxpayer's expense is mentioned. Some feel that certain people should pay while others advocate "free" junior college for every resident.

The reactions tabulated from the three statements concerning this subject are:

- (5) I feel every high school graduate should be admitted to a junior college if the student so desires.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	72.5	96	79	66
No	16	4	13	19
No Opinion	9.5	0	7	12
Don't Know	2	0	1	3

- (33) All students should attend a junior college before enrolling at a university.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	13	4	10	16
No	62.5	75	66	59
No Opinion	16	17	13	19
Don't Know	8.5	4	11	6

- (38) Junior colleges are for every age group and working adults take advantage of the program.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	58.5	79	62	55
No	7.5	7	6	9
No Opinion	11	7	9	13
Don't Know	23	7	23	23

## JUNIOR COLLEGE CAMPUS VISITATION

A more objective choice could possibly have been made on many of the survey statements had the person responding visited or toured the campuses of area junior colleges.

The results of the following statement included herewith should be considered when interpreting other segments of the survey.

(26) I have visited a junior college campus.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	43.5	47	41	46
No	49.5	53	57	42
No Opinion	5	0	1	9
Don't Know	2	0	1	3

## JUNIOR COLLEGE LEGISLATION

Often when we analyze legislation, we discover either that our legislators do not reflect the feelings of the public or the public isn't capable of making the proper decisions, therefore, our governmental leaders must of necessity make the decisions.

Although only two statements deal specifically with legislation, there are many statements alluding to the law pertaining to the Illinois Junior College Program.

The statements alluding to junior college legislation are question numbers 2, 5, 6, 11, 13, 24, 29, 31, and 32.

- (28) The governor's amendatory veto establishing a deadline of August, 1974 for school districts to join a junior college district should be approved by the legislature.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	21	32	22	20
No	23.5	36	19	28
No Opinion	26	7	27	25
Don't Know	29.5	25	32	27

- (35) All junior college legislation deals only with young people ages 18 - 28.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	14.5	7	12	17
No	27.5	61	28	27
No Opinion	6.5	7	5	8
Don't Know	51.5	25	55	48

#### ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Should a student graduate from an accredited high school before enrolling in an accredited junior college? If not, should successful completion of the General Educational Development (GED) Tests be required? Again, one would expect mixed feelings and misconceptions to prevail among many concerning the subject of entrance requirements. The statement on this subject was intended to determine the number of respondents who think that a high school diploma is a prerequisite to junior college admittance.



- (39) A student must graduate from high school to be admitted to a junior college.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	50	40	53	47
No	31	32	25	37
No Opinion	5.5	7	5	6
Don't Know	13.5	21	17	10

#### FINANCE

Taxes and costs probably evoke more concern among the American public than any other subject. We may note apathy concerning other highly important issues that arise, but when the pocketbook is involved, all people suddenly become involved in the democratic process.

It is interesting to note that all three statements deal with money, but some of them seem to arouse stronger feelings than others. This may be due entirely to the wording of the statements.

(12) I know where the junior college tuition payment for our school's students comes from.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	37.5	96	43	32
No	40	4	36	44
No Opinion	3.5	0	1	6
Don't Know	19	0	20	18

(13) It would cost the taxpayer more to belong to a junior college district than operate outside a junior college district.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	20	75	14	26
No	16	14	19	13
No Opinion	9	0	6	12
Don't Know	55	11	61	49

- (37) I feel that taxpayers should pay for two years of training at the junior college level for anyone who desires to attend.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	32	35	28	36
No	35	33	31	39
No Opinion	25.5	21	30	21
Don't Know	7.5	11	11	4

#### IN-DISTRICT VS. OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENTS

The question of who will be given priority during registration is of utmost importance. This question could become critical if a student needed a particular course to complete his or her program of studies, and was not allowed to enroll until after all in-district students had had a chance to enroll. Where does a situation like this leave the out-of-district student?

- (34) Students who live in a junior college district should be given preference over non-district students when registering for courses.

	All Seniors	Board Seniors	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	38	54	32	44
No	37.5	35	46	29
No Opinion	13	7	11	15
Don't Know	11.5	14	11	12

WHO SHOULD DETERMINE THE JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT JOINED?

The inevitable seems to be that in the very near future all of Illinois will be in a junior college district. There is little time left for the different avenues of annexation or the creation of a new junior college district to be explored. Time is crucial .

Decisions may be made with haste by many who are

trying to beat the established deadlines. Who should make the decisions? Who should exert the leadership needed concerning this issue?

(The question of annexing to a junior college district has never been submitted to the people of Fayette County for a vote.)

- (11) The legislature should assign all school districts to a junior college district.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	33	0	36	30
No	38	93	33	43
No Opinion	18	0	20	16
Don't Know	11	7	11	11

- (19) The question of joining a junior college district has been put to a vote of the people in our school district.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	16	4	15	17
No	21	78	15	27
No Opinion	9	0	8	10
Don't Know	54	18	62	46

- (24) A school district should not be forced into a junior college district if a vote of the people favors remaining outside the junior college district.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	66	50	73	59
No	16.5	28	13	20
No Opinion	13.5	11	10	17
Don't Know	4	11	4	4

- (29) A local school district should always be allowed to choose the junior college district it joins.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	67	75	70	64
No	8	0	9	7
No Opinion	16.5	18	13	20
Don't Know	8.5	7	8	9

- (30) Assignment by the Junior College Board of school districts to a junior college district to strengthen a weak district is a valid reason for assignment.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	23	11	22	24
No	25	68	19	31
No Opinion	23.5	14	24	23
Don't Know	28.5	7	35	22

(31) I feel the local Board of Education should determine whether our district joins a junior college district.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	25	35	27	23
No	45.5	54	44	47
No Opinion	20.5	7	19	22
Don't Know	9	4	10	8

(32) The voters of our school district should determine the junior college district we join.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Yes	64	64	70	58
No	17	21	12	22
No Opinion	10.5	11	9	12
Don't Know	8.5	4	9	8



## WHICH DISTRICT?

In the final analysis, if all of Illinois is to be included in a junior college district, a choice must be made by those concerned. The only other alternative: Wait for assignment by the Junior College Board.

The final item on the survey offered a choice between the two closest junior colleges.

(40) Circle the junior college district you prefer that your local school district join.

	All Seniors	Board Members	Female Seniors	Male Seniors
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Kaskaskia	18.5	14	16	21
Lake Land	74.5	72	80	69
No Response	7	14	4	10

## CHAPTER III

## INTERPRETATION AND SUMMARY

More emphasis must be placed on providing information to the students of public schools before they graduate from high school. This information should deal specifically with the Illinois Junior College Program. A significant percentage of the seniors polled were not aware of the junior college program as it exists in Illinois. Sixty-nine (69) percent of the female seniors are aware of the program, while only sixty-one (61) percent of the male seniors answered that they were aware of the program. Ninety-two (92) percent of the board members responded showing their awareness of the program.

Every board member stated that he or she knew the location of the nearest junior college. Ninety-four (94) percent of the girls indicated knowing where the nearest junior college is located; only eighty-three (83) percent of the males answered "Yes."

Only a very small percentage of the students understand the term "Junior College Letter of Intent" (Females 28% - Males 36%). Perhaps there is some correlation between this number and the number of students who attend junior colleges and must complete the letter of intent. Thirty-five (35) percent of the board members do not understand the term. This percent could be considered unusually large since many boards approve the letters of intent monthly. The president and secretary of the board usually sign the form. The letter of intent is used by districts not included in a junior college district to determine the number of students who will be attending a junior college during the approaching fiscal year. The number is extremely important for budgetary purposes.

Less than one-fourth of those responding to the questionnaire indicated that they felt the high school students were well informed about the advantages and disadvantages of the junior college. Many of the board members did not know or had no opinion.

The majority of all respondents feel that more time should be spent by the schools counseling junior college and technical school bound students. It is of interest to note that seventy-five (75) percent of the board members thought more time should be spent compared

to sixty-one (61) percent of the seniors.

Only a majority of female seniors answered "Yes" to the statement that adequate counseling is provided by the local school district. The majority was a narrow fifty-one (51) percent. Thirty-nine (39) percent of the male seniors and only thirty-five (35) percent of the board members believe that adequate counseling is provided for all students.

Forty-eight (48) percent of the boys stated that their counselor had discussed junior college attendance with them as compared to thirty-nine (39) percent of the girls. (Possibly a four year or technical school had been discussed with the respondents. This alternative was not included on the survey.) Fourteen (14) percent of the girls and seventeen (17) percent of the boys answered either "Don't Know" or "No Opinion." These figures are considered too high for the late date of administering this survey.

A majority of all the respondents said a junior college representative had spoken to their seniors (Female Seniors - 66%, Male Seniors - 64%, and Board Members - 50%). This is an indication that the junior colleges are doing a good job of providing personal services to the high schools surveyed.

Over sixty (60) percent of the female seniors

and board members agreed with the statement that their school district should be in a junior college district. The male seniors who responded with a "Yes" totaled forty-three (43) percent. Twenty eight (28) percent of the boys chose "No" as their response. This was the largest negative response on this statement.

An average of fifty-five (55) percent of the respondents felt that their school should be in a junior college district, but an average of forty-two (42) percent strongly favored annexation. A substantial percentage (14) of the respondents on the annexation portion of the survey either had no opinion or did not know at the time of the survey. Although a majority felt that their school should be in a junior college district, less than a majority strongly favored annexation.

Seventy-five (75) percent of the board members surveyed expressed a "Yes" to the statement that the nearest junior college offers a quality curriculum. Less than forty-five (45) percent of the seniors answered "Yes" on the statement. A large portion (42%) of the seniors fell into the "Don't Know or No Opinion" category.

The respondents did not feel that there is a correlation between the junior college tax rate and

the quality of the program offered. Forty-eight (48) percent of all the respondents chose "Don't Know" as their response. This high percentage is no doubt due to the fact that many had an opinion about the quality but did not know the tax rate and, therefore, could make no judgement.

It is of importance to note that even though we tend to equate per pupil expenditures with the quality of education in our public elementary and secondary schools, less than ten (10) percent of all responses indicated a correlation between tax rate and program quality.

A large percentage (47%) chose "Don't Know" as an answer to the statement "The students from your school who have attended a junior college have been well prepared in their major field of work." This seems to substantiate the idea that we do not do enough follow-up on our students to see how they fare in their field of preparation.

Sixty-seven (67) percent of those polled believe the junior college program should be more than preparation for entry into a senior college. Forty-five (45) percent believe that junior colleges should be geared more toward vocational-technical preparation than senior college preparation.

Surprisingly, only seventy-two (72) percent say they know the difference between vocational-technical and college transfer work. This would indicate the need for improved guidance and information in this area.

An average of forty-nine (49) percent of those surveyed feel that most junior colleges offer excellent vocational-technical programs.

Many of the students are not aware that evening classes are a very important part of the total junior college program. No doubt, many high school students would take advantage of some of the evening courses if they were aware of that possibility.

The majority (69%) of all those surveyed feel that the program should be considered rather than mileage when considering annexation. However, sixty-five (65) percent think that the quality of the highways should be considered in the annexation decision. There could be some contradiction in these responses if the respondents considered mileage and highway quality to be synonymous.

Those favoring the admittance into a junior college of any high school graduate constitute the majority on this statement. Board members were overwhelmingly (96%) in favor of this approach. This alleviates all entrance requirements but a high school diploma and

would prohibit the entrance of many adults now enrolled in junior college courses.

Even though one of the reasons the junior college program was established was to relieve the crowding of four year colleges and universities, sixty-seven (67) percent of those polled said that all students should not have to attend a junior college before entering a university.

Many responses were marked "No Opinion" or "Don't Know" on the question of adult participation in the junior college program. Again, this substantiates the need for informing the public and our students concerning the available adult educational opportunities.

The majority of the students seemingly knew little about junior college legislation. This would indicate that either they had not been informed, or they were just apathetic toward the subject. The responses of the school board members show them to be more aware of junior college legislation and its ramifications than are the students. This is possibly as it should be since board members are responsible for local education and should know about any legislation affecting the local school district.

As indicated by the survey results, many people still maintain that high school graduation should be a prerequisite to junior college admittance. Perhaps this



is due to the older, traditional approach used in the past. The female seniors had the largest percentage of "Yes" indicating that they believe this practice still to be used.

Ninety-six (96) percent of the members of boards of education know the source of revenue for tuition payments that must be paid to the junior college by out-of-district students. A much smaller number of the seniors indicated that they knew the source. Board members should know since they adopt the budget and levy annually for their local school district.

A large percentage of the board members (75%) answered that it would be of less cost to remain outside a junior college district than to be annexed. Many boards would like to remain unattached until the tuition costs, which they levy annually, rise above the junior college tax rate. This would not be feasible if the authority for levying the cost of junior college tuition is not extended by the legislature. It is thought that the cessation of this levy will add to the impetus to seek annexation. Eighty (80) percent of the seniors responded negatively or didn't know enough about this subject to express an opinion.

The question of the local taxpayer footing the bill for any resident to attend a junior college was

answered in such a manner as to reflect conservatism on the part of all respondents. An average of thirty-three (33) percent of all respondents are in favor of this practice. This leaves sixty-seven (67) percent against the practice or undecided on this money issue. Perhaps the feeling is that all working adults should pay their own tuition and fees.

A realistic view of the statement "Students who reside in a junior college district should be given preference over non-district students when registering for a course," should warrant the "Yes" answer selected by the majority of the board members. The female seniors say "No" to this item. Several respondents had not developed an opinion on this issue.

One of the interesting factors to arise from the section WHO SHOULD DETERMINE THE JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT? was the high percentage of the seniors who had no opinion or did not know if the people had had a chance to vote on the junior college annexation issue in the past. Of significance, also, is the eighteen (18) percent of the board members who did not know if there had been a vote in the past on the junior college annexation issue.

A large majority of all respondents answered that the local public school district should always be allowed to choose the junior college district it desires to annex.

Less than twenty (20) percent of all the respondents think that shoring up a weak junior college district is a valid reason for assigning a public school district to a junior college district. Hopefully this will be the feeling of the Junior College Board as it makes these important decisions.

The female seniors led the percentages with seventy (70) percent in favor of the voters deciding which junior college district they will join. Sixty-four (64) percent of the board members favor this compared to fifty-eight (58) percent of the male seniors.

If a public school district votes to remain outside of any junior college district, the desires should be granted according to the majority of those surveyed. The female seniors expressed very strong feelings on this issue when compared to the other two groups. Seventy-three (73) percent of the girls expressed a positive reaction to the above mentioned statement.

All categories of the respondents favor annexation to the Lake Land Junior College District by a large majority. The lowest number favoring Lake Land was the male seniors with sixty-nine (69) percent. The female seniors were eighty (80) percent in favor of Lake Land Junior College. This would seem to be a strong indicator and should be seriously considered by those who will become

involved in determining the junior college district or districts to which the public schools of Fayette County annex.

There seems to be some correlation between the feelings of the female seniors and board members on many of the items on the survey form. The two groups expressed approximately the same sentiments on fifty (50) percent of the statements included on the questionnaire. However, when the two groups differed in opinion, the difference was usually very marked.

The responses to statement number fourteen (14) were not included in the tabulation because it was the feeling of the author that, even though the question had been field tested, it could easily be interpreted to have two distinctly opposite meanings.

Consideration should also be given to the fact that only forty-four (44) percent of all who participated in the survey had visited at least one junior college campus. Many of the responses may have been different had more people been on a junior college campus.

## CHAPTER IV

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations result from an analysis of the survey.

1. More emphasis must be placed upon providing information about junior college opportunities to the seniors of public high schools. This information should be provided through the public school system. Specifically, the counselor or some other qualified individual should be made responsible for providing the needed information. The junior college representative could be one resource person to be used. According to the survey results the following specific areas should be considered when disseminating junior college information to the public school students.

- A. Cite any known advantages and/or disadvantages of the junior college.
  - B. Junior college attendance could be mentioned as a distinct possibility for every high school student.
  - C. All students should be made aware of the local tax effort that goes toward providing junior college opportunities to all local residents (high school graduates, those who successfully complete the GED, adults, and dropouts).
  - D. Explain the scope of the junior college curriculum. Emphasis should be placed on any known strengths or weaknesses.
  - E. Emphasize the role of the evening classes as a part of the total junior college program.
2. Much of this information should be supplied before the student reaches the senior year and should be reinforced at given intervals. Again, the primary responsibility for the

distribution of post-high school educational opportunities rests upon the local public schools.

3. More time should be spent counseling potential junior college and/or technical school bound students. The total staff should stay abreast of trends and help the counselor direct students into areas where the opportunities are the greatest.
4. Junior college representatives should be commended for their past work and encouraged to improve the personal relations with the area public high schools, especially those high schools which are a part of the junior college district.
5. The entire public should be solicited to become actively involved in the annexation procedure. This can be achieved by public hearings concerning annexation and through the use of community surveys.
6. In spite of legislation, all local school districts should be allowed to seek annexation to the junior college district of

their choice where feasible. The Junior College Board will probably be as cooperative as possible.

7. Local boards of education and school personnel should take the lead in providing information pertaining to junior college opportunities to adults as well as students through the use of the media and school newsletters.
8. Information concerning requirements for junior college entrance should be explained to adults and students. School officials should be responsible for the distribution of this information.
9. School board members, by virtue of their positions, must keep up with junior college legislation in order to remain knowledgeable about factors affecting their local districts.
10. Students should be surveyed annually to determine the strengths and weaknesses in the total counseling program.



11. Boards of education should be made aware of their local district's effort to inform students of educational opportunities and trends. (Possibly on a monthly basis.)
12. The results of portions of this survey should be seriously considered by the Fayette County residents before annexation to any junior college district. The results have been given to each district superintendent who may use the information when needed.
13. Seniors should visit at least one junior college campus before their high school graduation. This would offer a first hand look at junior college life, and perhaps questions the potential junior college student has could be answered.
14. All people should be encouraged to express their opinions concerning important issues. This is the only way the ideas of the majority can be ascertained.

## ADDENDUM

Since the administration of this survey, the following events have occurred in Fayette County, Illinois.

1. One Fayette County public school district has petitioned the Junior College Board of Illinois for annexation to the Lake Land Junior College District.
2. Three other districts are circulating petitions seeking annexation to Lake Land Junior College District.
3. The remaining public school district took a straw vote of the public during the regular annual school board election.
4. Citizens' committees have been asked to help with the junior college issue in three of the five public school districts.

**APPENDIX**

## JUNIOR COLLEGE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please give the name of your school \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Answer according to your own opinion. Circle your answer.

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. My school district should be in a junior college district.   | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 2. I am aware of the junior college program in Illinois.  | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 3. I know the location of the nearest junior college.   | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 4. The nearest junior college offers a quality curriculum.  | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 5. I feel every high school graduate should be admitted to a junior college, if the student so desires.                                 | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 6. I understand the meaning of the term "Junior College Letter of Intent."  | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 7. The junior college should be geared more toward technical training than preparation for a senior college.                            | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 8. A school district should consider the junior college program rather than mileage when deciding on joining a junior college district. | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 9. The junior college tax rate correlates with the quality of the program, i.e. low rate = low quality, etc.                            | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 10. The students from your school who have attended a junior college have been well prepared in their major field of work.     | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 11. The legislature should assign all school districts to a junior college district.   | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 12. I know where the junior college tuition payment for our school's students comes from.                                      | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 13. It would cost the taxpayer more to belong to a junior college district than operate outside a junior college district.     | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 14. None of the Fayette County schools are in a junior college district.   | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 15. The Interstate and/or quality of other highways should be considered when choosing a junior college district.              | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 16. Our high school students are well informed about the advantages and disadvantages of the junior college.                   | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 17. More time should be spent by our schools counseling junior college and technical students.                                 | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 18. Our school provides adequate counseling for all students.  | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |
| 19. The question of joining a junior college district has been put to a vote of the people in our school district in the past. | Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know |

20. I strongly favor joining a junior college district. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
21. The junior college program should be strictly academic senior college preparation. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
22. My counselor has discussed junior college attendance with me. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
23. I am aware of the difference between vocational-technical training and college transfer work at junior college. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
24. A school district should not be forced into a junior college district if a vote of the people favors remaining outside the junior college district. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
25. Most junior colleges offer an excellent vocational-technical program. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
26. I have visited a junior college campus. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
27. A junior college representative has spoken to seniors of our school explaining the program and costs. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
28. The governor's amendatory veto establishing a deadline of August, 1974, for school districts to join a junior college district should be approved by the legislature. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
29. A local school district should always be allowed to choose the junior college district it will join. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
30. Assignment by the junior college board of school districts to a junior college district to strengthen a weak district is a valid reason for assignment. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know

31. I feel the local Board of Education should determine whether our district joins a junior college district. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
32. The voters of our school district should determine the junior college district we join. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
33. All students should attend a junior college before enrolling at a university. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
34. Students who live in a junior college district should be given preference over non-district students when registering for courses. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
35. All junior college legislation deals only with young people ages 18-28. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
36. Evening classes are an integral part of the junior college program. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
37. I feel taxpayers should pay for two years of training at the junior college level for anyone who desires to attend. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
38. Junior colleges are for every age group and working adults take advantage of the program. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
39. A student must graduate from high school to be admitted to a junior college. Yes---No---No Opinion---Don't Know
40. Circle the junior college district you prefer that local school district join. Kaskaskia Lake Land