REGионаl FOuR-YEAR DEGREE ACCREDiTATION - A DREAM REALIZED

When current Sullivan Chief Executive Officer A. R. Sullivan and his father A. O. Sullivan began Sullivan College in its modern form in June of 1962 with five instructors and seven students, their dream was to have the finest one-year private business college in the United States. Because of the innovative programs offered at the college, the college quickly grew in size and stature and employers accepted their graduates in increasing numbers over those early years. In 1972, Sullivan received approval from the State Board for Business Schools to award an Associate of Specialized Business Degree (ASB) which it offered until 1976 when it received national accreditation as a junior college of business from the Council on Colleges of the Accrediting Commission of Independent Colleges and Schools in Washington, D.C. And at the same time the college moved to a new multi-million dollar campus at the Watterson Expressway and Bardstown Road which it currently occupies.

In 1977, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools opened its doors to private career-oriented institutions such as Sullivan to apply for collegiate regional accreditation. Sullivan became the first to apply and in 1979 the first privately-held junior college of business in the South to receive collegiate accreditation from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Four-Year Decision

The college and its board made a decision in 1989 to prepare to move toward becoming a Bachelor's Degree institution, but at the same time to not stop offering short nine and twelve-month programs leading to a Diploma or Associate of Science Degrees in a variety of career-oriented fields. The college made the decision to apply to Kentucky's Council on Higher Education in 1990 and in September of 1990 received its license to award a Bachelor's Degree. The first class of some 30 students began their quest at the junior level working toward a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Degree with options available in either accounting, marketing, business administration, or computer science.
Students, faculty, and staff celebrate news from Dallas with parties and refreshments.

CELEBRATION BEGAN AS NEWS SWEPT CAMPUS

The news of Sullivan’s new four-year collegiate accreditation swept the campus like wildfire after Baccalaureate Dean Vernon and Vice President Davison received President Coppock’s excited call from Dallas, Texas sharing the information that the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools had voted Sullivan College’s full four-year college accreditation status.

Excited faculty and staff quickly made posters and signs so that hundreds of evening students who would be arriving for their finals at 6:00 p.m. that evening would be the first to know of the new accreditation level. Many of these students had entered Sullivan in ’90 and ’91 while Sullivan was going through the process of moving from two- to four-year accreditation status.

As day division students arrived Wednesday, the party continued with a special celebration lasting all morning long during finals. What a wonderful Christmas and Holiday present for the entire college community as everyone heads off on their winter quarter break this week from Kentucky’s newest accredited four-year college.

Bachelors program student Jamie Pierce said, "This news is very exciting to me. When I first came to Sullivan, I didn't plan to get a Bachelor's Degree, but after finishing my Associate Degree, I decided to go for it! Now, I will have a four-year degree in only thirty-nine months!"
"WE DID IT!" - AN HISTORIC FIRST:

SULLIVAN EARNED SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION FOUR-YEAR COLLEGIATE ACCREDITATION

SPECIAL TO THE SULLIVAN HERALD

DALLAS, TEXAS • DECEMBER 8, 1992

Today, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of the Colleges and Schools granted Sullivan College of Lumberton, Kentucky, accreditation as a four-year bachelor's degree-granting institution. Sullivan, the first private career college in the south, received accreditation as a junior college in 1979. Sullivan, the first private career college in the south, received accreditation as a four-year institution in 1982. Sullivan is the third largest accredited private two-year or four-year college or university in Kentucky with enrollment of nearly 2,500 students in its campuses in Lumberton, Lexington, and Fort Knox. The college’s main campus is located at the Watertown Expressway and Bardstown Road in Louisville and the college offers a diploma, Associate Degree, and Bachelor’s Degree in a variety of business, hospitality, and early childhood programs.

This news release, released to the Herald for further distribution to the public, represents an exciting period in the history of Sullivan College.

Some 18 years ago, Sullivan became the first privately-held two-year college in the South to receive collegiate accreditation. The move from Associate Degree granting collegiate accreditation to four-year Bachelor’s Degree granting accreditation was history in the making and as usual it was Sullivan College doing the making.

Sullivan College's Chief Executive Officer and Founder A.R. Sullivan and Sullivan College President Dr. G. Stephen Copcock traveled to Dallas for this historic meeting of the Southern Association. They were representing everyone at Sullivan College among several other college representatives from the four Commissions of the Southern Association (elementary, secondary, occupational, and collegiate) attending this annual meeting.

History in the Making

President Copcock tells the Herald, “Being first is something on an enviable position and being the first private, non-junior college to receive accreditation at the four-year accredited level from this prestigious body made our role in representing our college even more important.” He added, “This year marks another chapter in the history of our college. In 1988, we moved from being a junior college to a senior college, and we knew it would be a challenging task. We first had to attain approval from Kentucky’s Council on Higher Education, and in 1990 became the first privately-held junior college in the state of Kentucky to receive a license from the Council on Higher Education to award a Bachelor’s degree. Immediately after that, in the fall of 1990, the first junior level classes began and now here are we today just slightly over two years later with the full accreditation from this prestigious body.” He added, “All of the faculty and staff and students of Sullivan College are to be congratulated on their efforts in making this historic event happen today.”

Chief Executive Officer A.R. Sullivan added, “One important event that occurs because of its accreditation is that all junior and senior level students will receive financial aid for the fall quarter and the spring quarter. We’re excited about that because it means that we will be able to help as many of our students as possible. From this point on, all financial aid available to junior and senior level students will be available at our junior and senior level students.”

Senior Associate Dean Jim Yorkman puts up streamers as festivities begin!
ENROLLMENT INCREASES AS NEWS OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE SPREADS

Enrollment quickly grew as word spread among alumni that Sullivan College was now awarding a Bachelor's Degree graduates of Sullivan's Associate Degree program and graduates of other private career schools, Jefferson Community College in Louisville, and Ivy Tech in Southern Indiana made application to enter our program. Sullivan Vice President and Main Campus Director Tom Davison says, "We believe our rapid growth was because of our reputation of not only offering a quality education, but because well over 97% of our gradu-

Graduate Casey Dick was one of first to complete Sullivan's Baccalaureate program. mates accept positions each year from employers who come to us in increasing numbers to hire our graduates." He added, "Our large professional Graduate Employment Service makes us different than most traditional colleges and universities."

Financial Aid Available

Baccalaureate Dean Jim Vernon adds, "Now with the full accreditation and the financial aid available, we're poised for a major growth in this program and I'm excited of the opportunity that we're going to offer so many students from other colleges and universities who have talked to us about transferring into the program. We will have four Bachelor's Degree classes beginning in 1993 at the beginning of each of our quarters in January, April, July, and October." He added, "I encourage those students to quickly apply for available openings and be sure to bring transcripts from any other college or university you've attended so that they can be evaluated for transfer. We have a very liberal transfer program, particularly for graduates of Associate of Applied Science Degrees from Jefferson Community College and Ivy Tech and two-year local career colleges in our area."

Graduate School Opportunities Will Quickly Open

One of the measures of any student's ability to move to a graduate school not only includes the taking of the GRE (Graduate Record Examination), but also the fact that the student has graduated from a regionally-accredited institution. With Sullivan's new accreditation from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association, graduates of our Bachelor's Degree program should find the acceptance by graduate schools throughout this part of the country a much easier task to accomplish.
LIBRARY & FACULTY EXPAND ROLE AS BACHELOR PROGRAM EXPANDS

With almost 200 students currently pursuing the third and fourth year classes at Sullivan College’s Bachelor’s program, Head Librarian Jan Peach and her staff have been rapidly adding thousands of volumes and numerous periodicals to the specialized holding of our collegiate library.

Expansion Planned

With plans on the drawing board to physically grow the library by 50% over the next several years, a major commitment has been made by the college and the college board to provide the resources to expand the library’s holdings at a dramatic level. Ms. Peach states, “We’re adding hundreds of volumes each term which are being recommended by faculty, staff, and professional services. In addition, I’m excited about growth of our electronic library with our access to the Nexis

includes a variety of CD ROM learning resources for our students to do research and to study from. We also are on-line with Kentucky Library Networks holdings and have cooperative relationships with the number of local area college and public library system. Literally hundreds of thousands of volumes are available for our students to research and study as well as our extensive specialized holdings many of which are unique among colleges and universities in this local area.

We’re proud of our library and its growth and because of the specialized nature of Sullivan College our students have excellent learning resources available.”

Faculty Added

Baccalaureate Dean Jim Vernon has added a number of faculty with Ph.D.’s and Educational Doctorates as well as extensive business and educational experiences to the faculty. Dean Vernon says, “I’m tremendously proud of not only our full-time faculty, many of whom hold advanced degrees and post-graduate educational credit, but I’m also very proud of our Baccalaureate faculty who bring many years of experience and educational credentials to the classroom. The Southern Association Visiting Committee was very complimentary of the Sullivan College faculty and indicated that students they talked to during their visit indicated their satisfaction with the quality of education being offered at the Bachelor’s level.

Beth finds Sullivan’s ever-growing library to be a great place to study as she pursues a Bachelor of Science Degree.

database of over 25 million articles and periodicals on file.” She added, “In addition to the four Lexis and Nexis research stations, we have four CD ROM units located in the library which
SULLIVAN'S DEGREE APPROACH IS UNIQUE

Most students think of a Bachelor's Degree as a program that takes four to six years of full-time attendance the day or eight to ten years to earn a Bachelor's Degree at night. Sullivan College, because of its unique history as a career-oriented, "career-first" program institution, offers its students the opportunity to earn their Bachelor's Degree in just 36 to 42 months of full- and part-time attendance while earning a Diploma at the end of one year, or Associate Degree at the end of 18 months, after they've entered school.

Making this program more unique is Sullivan's decision to only offer the Diploma and Associate Degree programs in the day and all third and fourth year classes at nights and on weekends.

The Concept

President Dr. Steve Coppock states, "When Sullivan Founder and Past President A. R. Sullivan came to me several years ago with his concept of a four-year program to be completed in three years, I became tremendously excited. The concept allows our students to complete a career program leading to an Associate Degree in just 18 months. At the end of 18 months, our students accept full-time employment and then complete all of their Bachelor's programs in classes meeting one evening per week and on weekends over the next 18 to 24 months. At the end of this period, the graduate could have earned a Diploma, an Associate of Science Degree, and a Bachelor of Science Degree while having 18 to 24 months of full-time job experience and income." He added, "If a student wants to take a more leisurely path, it could take a student four years to complete their Bachelor's Degree, but the student would have had an opportunity to earn two and one-half to three years of income during this period of time."

It Really "Works"

Students can choose to take one class or up to three classes at a time, but in 36 to 42 total months Sullivan students can earn their Bachelor's Degree while earning income and getting experience." Dr. Coppock shared, "If you were an employer, you could hire a typical college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree who only had a summertime job for three summers and no full-time job experience or you could hire a Sullivan graduate who had already earned an Associate Degree, a Bachelor's Degree, had 18 to 24 months of full-time job experience, who would you hire if all other factors were equal? Employers tell us they would like to have the Sullivan graduate with the job experience plus the degree. This we call a win/win situation."
Sullivan College entertained two accreditation committees over the past two years as it made this substantive move from a junior to a senior college. In early fall of 1991, a full committee visited the school and in December of 1991, the college received its status as a Candidate for Senior College Accreditation (Level II) from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association. As a result of that positive first committee visit and because so few recommendations and suggestions were made, the college knew it could quickly apply for and receive a final required second visit from another committee for full accreditation. That visit took place this past August. The Chairman of the committee, Dr. James Stamper from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, stated, "I've chaired over 20 committees of the Southern Association and the four recommendations that this institution received on this final substantial change visit is the smallest number I've ever seen in a committee write."

There are over 400 "must statements" in the Criteria of the Southern Association an institution must meet. To only receive four recommendations is a tremendous tribute to the hard work of faculty and staff and the quality programs being offered at Sullivan College. Other members of the final visiting committee included: Dr. John Williams of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida; Dr. Teresa Kenneally of Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia; Dr. Joe Dahlstrom of University of Houston-Victoria in Victoria, Texas; Mr. Casey Frederick of Francis Marion College in Florence, South Carolina.

After a three-day visit, the Committee wrote its final report to the Commission on Colleges which the Commission considered in Dallas.