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# A SALUTE TO MEN OF VISION

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DURHAM TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FOUNDERS' DAY  
SEPTEMBER 22, 1988



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# FOUNDERS' DAY PROGRAM

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**September 22, 1988**

**Ten O'Clock**

**Invocation**

The Reverend David Brownlee  
Minister, Trinity United Methodist  
Church

**Welcome**

Dr. Phail Wynn, Jr.  
President

**Greetings**

The Honorable Wib Gulley  
Mayor of Durham

The Honorable Rebecca M. Heron  
Vice Chairman, Durham County  
Board of Commissioners

**The Occasion**

Ms. Augusta A. Julian  
Dean, Institutional Advancement

**Special Acknowledgements**

Dr. Phail Wynn, Jr.

**Tribute to a Friend of the College**

**Recognition of Founders**

**Dedication Ceremony**

Mr. James I. Bolden  
Vice Chairman,  
Board of Trustees

**Closing Remarks**

Dr. Phail Wynn, Jr.

**Benediction**

The Reverend Lorenzo A. Lynch  
Pastor, White Rock Baptist Church

**Reception**

## SIMPLE BEGINNINGS

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In the fall of 1961, 34 young men were the first to seize a new opportunity—that of a technical education. On Sept. 5, Durham Industrial Education Center opened its doors to the young men and offered them classes in four highly skilled areas.

“At first, many people thought the school offered only apprenticeship programs,” remembered Albert F. Dailey, one of the original students. “They had no idea how much work and study the programs required. But they found out.”

Dailey graduated from Durham Industrial Education Center—now Durham Technical Community College—in 1963 with the first class. He obtained his degree in mechanical engineering technology. Other programs that the Durham center offered in the early years included dental technology, distribution and marketing technology, and automotive engineering technology.

Yet those were not Durham’s first adult education programs. When the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated funds to establish a number of area industrial education centers, Durham already had a strong adult education program, which was conducted by the Vocational and Adult Education Department of the Durham City Schools. A practical nursing program had been established through the department in 1948. Other vocational and adult education programs included architectural drafting, mechanical drafting, and electronics technology.

As a result of the General Assembly’s appropriation, the State Board of Education challenged North Carolina’s local school administrative units to provide separate adult educational facilities that would meet the specialized training needs of the population of a given area.

Durham accepted the challenge. In a June 1958 referendum, Durham County residents made \$500,000 available to erect the school’s first building, which has been known—until now—as the Main Building. By July 1961, the building was finished, and nine employees had been hired.

After opening in September 1961, the Durham center reached its next milestone when the Industrial Education Center Board was created. Until then, the school had been supervised by the Durham City Board of Education. The Community College Act passed by the General Assembly in 1963 decreed that the state’s industrial education centers should operate as separate units. In response, the Durham County Board of Commissioners, the City Board of Education, and the County Board of Education established the Industrial Education Center Board, appointing to it Leo A. Downey, Dr.

Sherwood Githens, Jr., Robert L. Lyon, Hyland R. McDaniel, George W. Newton, Edward L. Phillips, Donnie A. Sorrell, and Nathaniel B. White.

At the board’s first meeting on July 25, 1963, Lyon was named chairman, Phillips vice-chairman, and Harold K. Collins was unanimously selected to continue serving as director of the center.

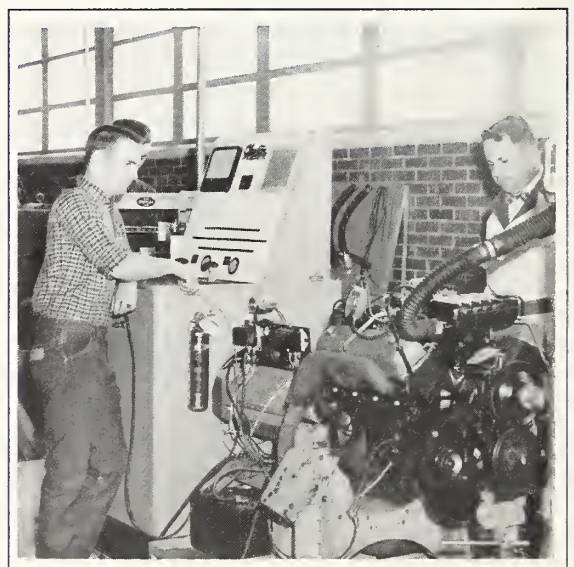
The board members immediately realized the young school’s potential for serving the educational needs of area residents. At the first meeting, Githens said he “looked forward to the day” when the Durham center would become a technical institute.

And Newton, now chairman of Durham Tech’s Board of Trustees, stated that he hoped the center would evolve into a community college, offering courses transferable to four-year institutions.

During the next 20 years, the board members turned plans into realities, as the school became first a technical institute and later a community college.

While Durham Tech was evolving, Albert F. Dailey built his life on the education he received at the Durham center. He formed his own company, Triangle Instruments, in 1970. As the Triangle area grew, so did the company, a repair dealership that sells accessories and replacement parts.

“When I began this company,” Dailey said, “there were no manuals or schematic plans. It was my education at Durham Tech that trained me to design and draft my own needed materials. More importantly, Durham Tech taught me how to think.”



*The first students in automotive engineering technology (above) learn to use diagnostic equipment.*





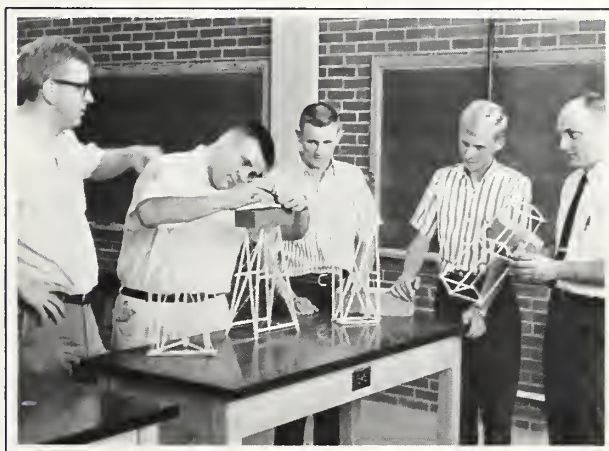
*Above: The new members of the Durham Industrial Education Center Board met for the first time on July 25, 1963.*



*At left: A new building but an unpaved Lawson Street greeted the students in Sept. 1961.*

*Bottom, left: Engineering students of the early days tested model structures.*

*Bottom, right: Hands-on training has always been an important component in the school's curricula.*



## YEARS OF GROWTH

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When the Durham Industrial Education Center opened its doors, Durham was a town of 78,000, and no tall buildings broke the skyline. Most people were employed by small, local businesses, and the Research Triangle Park was a vague dream.

The citizens of 1961 surely would have had difficulty imagining the great transformation that the Triangle area has since gone through.

And Durham Tech has been a key contributor in transforming the area into a center of high technology. Its success is tangible, which is evident by the growth in enrollment and reputation over almost three decades.

**1960s** A total of 1,188 curriculum students signed up for courses in the fall of 1969. The number of programs had grown to 14, including such specialized fields as electronics technology and practical nursing.

"We started by offering boys' courses," an early student remembers, but by 1969 close to half of the students were women.

Just three years after the center was created, the open door policy was established, providing access to training for anyone over 18 years of age.

A major milestone came in 1965 when the Durham Industrial Education Center became Durham Technical Institute and enrollment climbed. By the mid-60s, classes were offered in Durham, Orange, Granville, Person, and Vance counties.

But growth created a compelling and costly new demand—space. Throughout the 1960s, Durham Technical Institute was confined in one building that housed classrooms, labs, a library, and offices.

**1970s** Called "a prologue of the future," the Collins Building opened in 1970. And by 1977, both the Industrial and Engineering Technologies Building on Cooper Street and the Phillips Building were open for instruction.

By the fall quarter of 1979, enrollments in curriculum programs had soared to 2,666. Continuing education attracted thousands more through general interest and occupational education classes.

The curricula mirrored the Triangle's direction of growth: respiratory therapy, pharmacy technology, electronics, accounting, computer programming, real estate, and paralegal technology. From 14 programs of study in 1970, the numbers had increased to 25 by 1979.

The decade also saw a change of leadership. Harold K. Collins had guided Durham Tech's early growth from a small industrial center to a "high tech" institution of the 1970s. In 1975, Dr. John Crumpton came to Durham

Tech from IBM to lead the school into the next decade.

**1980s** Already Durham Tech has drawn up a long list of achievements to mark these years.

Under Dr. Phail Wynn, Jr., who became president in 1980, the college has grown into an impressive campus of red brick buildings—with the opening of the Educational Resources Center in March 1987 and that of the Adult and Continuing Education Center in March 1988.

Also, the institution has matured into Durham Technical Community College. With the name change, students for the first time can earn university-level credits that are transferable to senior institutions.

A new educational foundation has been created to expand community support for college projects, and new marketing techniques have been implemented to inform all area citizens about the opportunities available at Durham Tech. And Durham Tech has been making sure that people can take advantage of these opportunities. By providing off-campus, evening and weekend classes, Durham Tech has made its courses accessible to the citizens in Durham and Orange counties.

Durham Tech's achievements are not over. To remain successful, the college will continue to be a working partner in the progress of the community.



*Durham Tech carried on the red-brick tradition when the college built the Educational Resources Center (left) in 1986 and the E. L. Phillips Building (bottom) in 1976.*





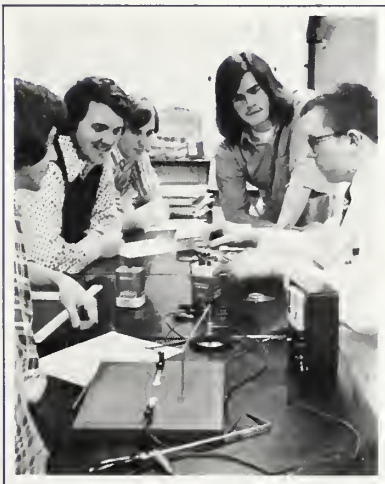


*Clockwise, from left: A machinist student operated a lathe.*

*A chemistry student weighed one of many experiments.*

*The nursing students received rigorous training in anatomy and physiology.*

*Students learn how to read a volt meter in a physics lab.*





"It is my hope that the Durham Industrial Education Center should ultimately become a community college," said George W. Newton, current chairman of the Durham Technical Community College Board of Trustees and founder of Newton Instrument Company, Inc. He made the statement at the center's initial trustee meeting in 1963. So commenced Newton's 25 years of committed service to Durham Tech.

Newton graduated in 1939 from Durham High School where his technical training had begun. He enrolled in every shop, vocational, and industrial class available and was befriended by Harold K. Collins, a young teacher, who later became Durham Tech's first president.

After serving an apprenticeship at Duke University in instrument making, Newton put his education to work in Duke's physics department and later at Durham Hosiery Mill. In 1949 with financial support from Dr. Max Schiebel, he formed his own business, Newton Instrument Company. Through the company, Newton designed and built medical research equipment and other industrial mechanical devices. In 1968, his company developed a line of telecommunication devices that are now marketed nationally. Newton holds nearly a dozen patents for various devices he developed during his career. Under Newton's leadership, the company has grown from humble beginnings in the basement of his home to an enterprise employing 200

*"It is my hope that the Durham Industrial Education Center should ultimately become a community college."*

George W. Newton  
July 25, 1963, Meeting  
of the Durham Industrial Center  
Board of Trustees

people in North Carolina and Illinois. Newton credits Murray D. Thornburg, head of vocational and industrial education at Durham High in 1939, with influencing his lifetime commitment to technical development. "He was my mentor and my inspiration. Mr. Thornburg said I could accomplish anything, and then he gave me the supportive training."

Newton sees the spirit of training and opportunity embodied at Durham Tech. The focus on the individual is one of the keys to Newton's 25-year commitment to the college as a member of the Board of Trustees.

He said, "I am interested in seeing that individuals who have economic or academic difficulties receive training to make their lives satisfying. We can assist in providing opportunities for the upward mobility of our students, which would result in the overall success of our community."

Growing with flexibility and meeting identified needs in targeted industries have been the bywords of success for George Newton and his creation, Newton Instrument Company. He sees those same qualities in Durham Tech. Durham Technical Community College is fulfilling the vision he set forth 25 years ago.



Located on Cooper Street, the above building has been named the "George W. Newton Industrial and Engineering Technologies Center" in Newton's honor.



*"Today we emphasize how to earn a living—economic opportunity. Tomorrow, we may include more curricula on how to live in peace and harmony on this planet."*

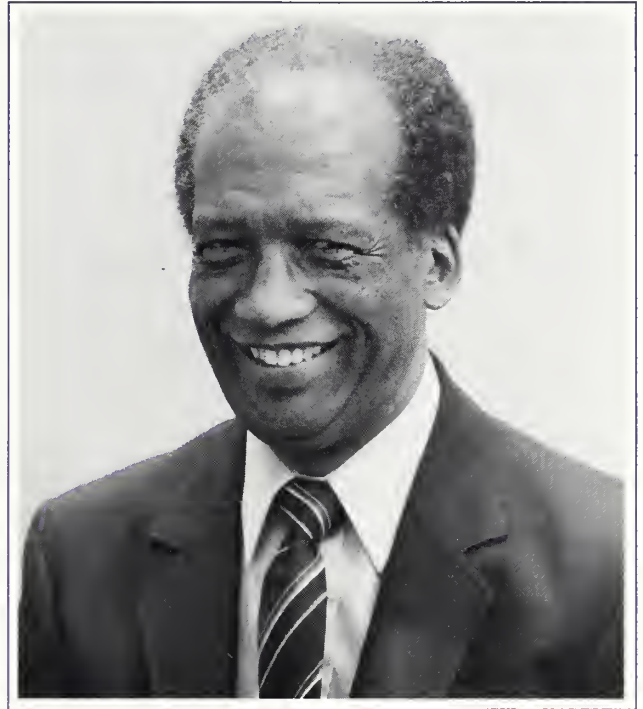
Nathaniel B. White, Sr.  
1988

Nathaniel B. White has been involved with Durham Tech from its infancy. As co-chairman of the Economic Subcommittee of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People in 1957, White monitored community efforts to improve economic opportunities. He was aware of the money appropriated by the North Carolina General Assembly to establish a limited number of industrial education centers across the state. The subcommittee recommended supporting the bond proposal that led to the opening of the Durham Industrial Education Center.

Another interest spurred White's enthusiasm for the center. He envisioned an institution open to all citizens—a desegregated public school in Durham County. White's objectives of economic opportunity and community harmony, evident in 1957, have been a theme permeating his life.

White, born in Hertford, N.C., and raised in Norfolk, Va., received his B.S. degree in printing education from Hampton Institute in 1937. In 1939, he and two partners, Day F. Reed and Walter "Kit" Swann, came to Durham to manage Service Printing Company. George D. White, Jr., White's brother, joined the firm a year later. Nathaniel White became co-owner and president of the company in 1941 and served in that capacity until 1982.

Service Printing Company was one of the oldest black-owned printing companies in North Carolina. "(It) is an indispensable cog in Durham's wheel of progress," said a 1958 edition of the student newspaper at



North Carolina College, now North Carolina Central University. White has been an active member of the Durham community. He served as president of the Durham Business and Professional Chain and as scout-master of Boy Scout Troop 55 from 1942 to 1968 (26 of his scouts earned the Eagle rank). Also, he was appointed chairman of the City Council's Citizens Advisory Committee Workable Program for Community Improvement. His years of community service have resulted in many honors including awards from the Boy Scouts of America, Hampton Institute, and the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People.

At present, he is a Trustee of Durham Technical Community College, a member of the National Business League, a director of the Durham Business and Professional Chain, a member of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, a board member of Mutual Savings and Loan Association, and trustee chairman of White Rock Baptist Church.

An original member of the Industrial Education Center Board, White stated, "The original board possessed a good working knowledge of technical needs, encouraged an open door policy, and stressed flexibility. Our divergent views came together harmoniously to solve problems."

Envisioning the future, White said, "I see the college expanding its base and enlarging its connections with other institutions. Today, we emphasize how to earn a living—economic opportunity. Tomorrow, we may include more curricula on how to live in peace and harmony on this planet."



Known for years as "The Main Building" it has been named the "Nathaniel B. White Building" in White's honor.



The election of a chairman was the first order of business at the organizational meeting of the Durham Industrial Education Center Board on July 25, 1963. By unanimous vote, the board elected Robert L. Lyon. He served in that position until August 1971 and continued as a Durham Tech trustee until his retirement in July 1980. On leaving the board, he was awarded an honorary Associate of Humanities degree by Durham Tech.

However, Lyon's service to Durham Tech did not end. Lyon still serves as a member of the Technical Scholarships Committee, which is responsible for awarding all student scholarships administered by the college. In 1984, his family established the Robert L. Lyon Merit Achievement Scholarship. This scholarship, endowed through the Durham Tech Foundation, continues to grow and was awarded last year to a 30-year-old business administration student who is a wife, mother and community volunteer.

"Service to the community is very important to Mr. Lyon," explained Pat Hemingway, the Technical Scholarships Committee chairman. "He is a very caring, compassionate and modest person who loves our school and Durham. He has great respect for those citizens who try to help themselves and others."

Lyon, a Durham native, attended Fishburn Military School in Waynesboro, Va., and Duke University. He is the retired president and manager of W. C. Lyon Hard-

*"[Harold K. Collins and I] believed that teaching an individual to use his hands along with his intellect would promote self-sufficiency."*

Robert L. Lyon  
1988

ware Company. He has been active in many organizations such as the Durham Merchants Association, the Board of Central Carolina Bank, the Salvation Army, and the Foundation for Better Health. Lyon traces his involvement with Durham Tech to his friendship with Harold K. Collins, Durham Tech's first president. "We both loved to work with our hands," Lyon recounted. "We believed that teaching an individual to use his hands along with his intellect would promote self-sufficiency."

In his perception of Durham Tech's future, Lyon envisions the college becoming more involved in training for the health care professions in cooperation with area universities while continuing to provide comprehensive, quality education at a low cost.

Lyon's actions as the school's first board chairman still positively influence Durham Tech. The scholarship established in his honor will continue to benefit area citizens—supporting the goals initiated by his early leadership.

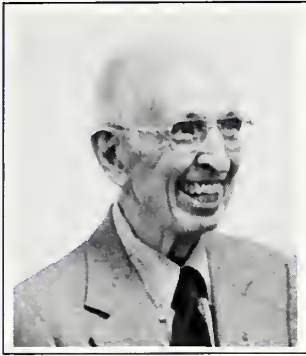


*The Trustees Board Room is now known as the "Robert L. Lyon Board Room."*



## EDWARD L. PHILLIPS

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"The most important job at Durham Tech is teaching; and when teaching is done well, it is hard work and requires dedication," said Edward L. Phillips, former Durham Tech Board of Trustees member and retired administrator with the Durham City Schools. Prior to serving for 11 years as the assistant superintendent of the city schools, Phillips served 16 years as a high school teacher and 17 years as a principal.

Phillips was appointed to the original board of the Durham Industrial Education Center by the city and county school boards. He later served as the chairman of the center's board from 1971-1980. Of that service he said, "It was a great pleasure to be chairman of the

board. Durham Tech found its niche in the educational system and overcame all roadblocks. The members of the board were talented and worked together harmoniously."

Phillips was born in Durham and received his B.A. degree in 1925 and his master's degree in 1935 both from Duke University. Having been active in many community organizations, he was a member of the boards of the Durham County Library and the Family Services Association. He also served as an original member of Durham's Human Relations Commission. Gov. Terry Sanford appointed him to the Board of Directors of the Teachers and State Employees' Retirement System.

On April 24, 1984, Durham Tech's Board of Trustees honored Phillips when Building Three was officially named the E. L. Phillips Business Technologies and General Education Building. Honoring Phillips in appreciation for his service to Durham Tech, George Newton said, "Mr. Phillips' vast experience as an educator and administrator provided educational expertise and direction during the institute's formative period. His genuine interest in the welfare of all students and his humanitarian philosophy have touched the lives of many."

## DONNIE A. SORRELL

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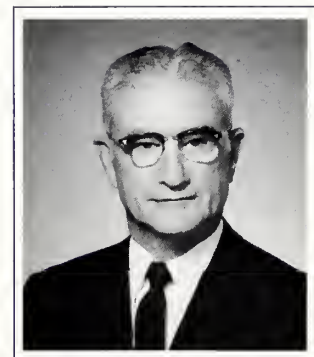
Public service is a cornerstone of Donnie A. Sorrell's life. Thus it is not surprising that when the Durham city and county school boards established the Durham Industrial Education Center Board, Sorrell was named one of the members. Sorrell served on this board from July 1963 until August 1971.

His appointment as chairman of the board's first finance committee enabled him to leave an indelible mark on the fiscal management of the school. Working in close cooperation with officials of local and state governments, he was instrumental in securing the funds that fueled the growth and expansion of Durham Tech.

Sorrell has been a long-time member of Durham's business community. He is president of Clark and Sorrell Inc., an automotive repair and service company.

In addition to his work, many civic and social interests have found a place in Sorrell's life. He was chairman of the board of Home Savings and Loan Association, Inc. And he served for many years on the board of Central Carolina Bank and on the finance committee of Durham Memorial United Methodist Church.

Sorrell, past president of the Greater Durham



Chamber of Commerce, was awarded that organization's prestigious Civic Honor Award in 1946. The chamber board drafted a resolution in his honor, which in part stated:

"Donnie A. Sorrell, at the beginning of a successful business career, became an aggressive and intelligent leader in Durham;

"He has given of his time and resourcefulness in self-effacing devotion to the ideals for community growth;

"And, he has consistently refused to take honor to himself."



# EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE

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Durham Technical Community College taught 8,298 curriculum students during the 1986-1987 academic year. Only 34 full-time students had enrolled in 1961. Today more than 18,000 area citizens take at least one curriculum or continuing education course at Durham Tech each year.

Currently, 177 full-time faculty and staff members work for the college, as compared to nine that first year. And the number of programs Durham Tech offers has increased from four to 29.

The institution has opened up avenues of employment for the citizens of the Triangle area by training them in the latest technologies—from digital repair to microcomputer applications.

Durham Tech helped Leslie Savage, a resident of the Triangle, find her place in today's "high tech" world. Savage holds a master's degree in accounting. Yet she knew she could be even more effective in her job if she took some courses in business computer programming. She had already taken a few computer programming classes at Georgia State University and North Carolina State University before she came to Durham Tech.

"I found that the courses I took at Durham Tech were perhaps better than those at any of the other schools around," said Savage, who now has an associate degree in business computer programming.

"The instructors make the courses what they are. Durham Tech instructors come from different kinds of work backgrounds. Students should be exposed to a variety of people. That's what the real world is like."

Savage explained that one company was interested in her because she was pursuing an associate degree from a technical institute. "They knew that at Durham Tech I was receiving practical experience and practical problem-solving, not just theory," she said.

Durham Tech trains people not only for the work force but also offers courses to adults who want to finish high school or master basic academic skills. And continuing education classes, workshops and seminars teach occupational training and provide cultural enrichment.

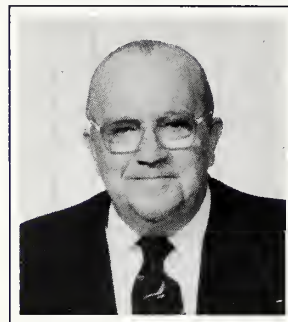
Durham Technical Community College is reaching out to Triangle area residents. By offering courses at more than 100 sites in Durham and Orange counties, Durham Tech is helping to meet the needs of the citizens. In doing so, the college helps to shape careers and enrich lives.

Durham Tech's men of vision built the college of today on the hopes of the past. The college—and people—of tomorrow will continue to benefit from their wisdom, service and foresight.

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STATE SEN. KENNETH C. ROYALL, JR.

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For his years of support of education, Durham Tech enthusiastically salutes Sen. Kenneth C. Royall, Jr. The Durham resident has championed education in the Triangle area for 21 years during three terms in the North Carolina House of Representatives and eight terms in the State Senate. As a member of the General Assembly, he has served on the Board of Higher Education, the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, and the Governor's Commission on Education for Economic Growth. He also served as chairman of the Durham County Board of Education from 1959 to 1966. In serving as chairman of the Advisory Budget Commission, Senate Majority Leader, and chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, Sen. Royall consistently ensured that public education remained a top priority in North Carolina's budget-planning process.

Durham Tech has special reason to honor Sen. Royall. Under the senator's leadership, the college has received five major appropriations during this decade alone:

- 1981 \$50,000 to purchase equipment for microelectronics-related industry training.
- 1982 \$200,000 to purchase equipment for the microelectronics technology and electronics engineering technology programs.
- 1984 \$1,000,000 for construction of the Educational Resources Center.
- 1985 \$780,000 for construction of the Adult and Continuing Education Center.
- 1987 \$500,000 for the expansion of Durham Tech into northern Durham County.

For his dedicated support and leadership in education over many years, Durham Technical Community College proudly presents Sen. Royall with the first Friend of the College Award.



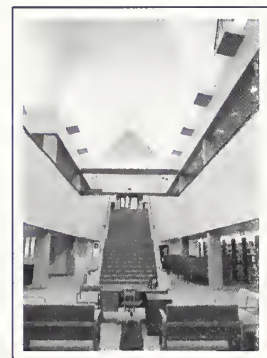
*Clockwise from above: A student examines a silicon wafer in the microelectronics lab.*

*Thousands of students, like the one at the top right, have gained computer skills in Durham Tech classes.*

*An instructor helps an architectural drafting student learn computer-aided design.*

*The openness of the new library enhances the college's learning environment.*

*The Educational Resources Center was dedicated in May 1987.*



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BOARD OF DURHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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**1961**

George F. Kirkland, Chairman  
Edwin B. Clements  
Frank H. Kenan  
S. LeRoy Proctor  
Dewey S. Scarboro

**1988**

William V. Bell, Chairman  
Rebecca M. Heron, Vice-Chairman  
Josephine D. Clement  
Al Hight  
Louise W. McCutcheon

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DURHAM CITY COUNCIL

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**1961**

Mayor E. J. Evans  
Paul Alford  
Luther Barbour  
Bascom Baynes  
W. A. Biggs  
Eugene Carlton  
I. L. Dean  
Mrs. R. O. Everett  
Vance Fisher  
Floyd Fletcher  
James R. Hawkins  
Charles L. Steel  
J. S. Stewart

**1988**

Mayor Wilbur P. Gulley  
Clarence P. Brown  
Shirley A. Caesar  
Tom H. Campbell  
A. J. Howard Clement III  
Jane S. Davis  
Virginia Engelhard  
Chester L. Jenkins  
Sylvia S. Kerckhoff  
Oscar M. Lewis, Jr.  
Sandra V. Ogburn  
Peggy Watson-Borden  
Johnny Red Williams

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DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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**1961**

Kenneth C. Royall, Jr., Chairman  
Paul Wright, Jr.  
John M. Dozier  
L. R. Chambers  
L. A. Downey

**1988**

Joy B. Baldwin, Chairman  
Linda Chandler, Vice-Chairman  
Curtis Crutchfield, Jr.  
W. F. Landing

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DURHAM CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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**1961**

F. L. Fuller, Jr., Chairman  
Ruth F. Dailey  
Rencher N. Harris  
George R. Parks  
Herman Rhinehart  
Allston J. Stubbs

**1988**

Dr. Thomas B. Bass, Chairman  
Betty M. Copeland, Vice Chairman  
Dr. Robert Ghirardelli  
Dr. Willa C. Bryant  
Dr. John H. Lucas

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES - DURHAM TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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**1963**

Robert L. Lyon, Chairman  
Edward L. Phillips, Vice-Chairman  
Leo A. Downey  
Dr. Sherwood Githens, Jr.  
Hyland R. McDaniel  
George W. Newton  
Donnie A. Sorrell  
Nathaniel B. White

**1988**

George W. Newton, Chairman  
James I. Bolden, Vice-Chairman  
Jesse Anglin  
C. Darrell DeLoatche  
Wanda J. Garrett  
Dr. W. Kimball Griffin  
James G. Huckabee, Jr.  
Dennis B. Nicholson  
James L. Nicholson, Jr.  
Mary Ann Peter  
Mark H. Webbink  
Nathaniel B. White

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DURHAM TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**1988**

William A. Clement  
H. C. Cranford, Jr.  
Thomas W. D'Alonzo  
K. Wayne Hays  
David C. Kennedy  
W. J. Kennedy III  
Ralph P. Rogers  
Ruth M. Rogers  
Al Thorn  
W. Stephens Toler  
Thomas J. White

**EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS**

C. Darrell DeLoatche  
Augusta A. Julian  
Edward E. Moore  
George W. Newton  
James L. Nicholson, Jr.  
Dr. Phail Wynn, Jr.





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FOUNDERS' DAY COMMITTEE

Barbara Baker, Chairman

Dorothy Brower    Janyth Fredrickson

Lloydette Hoof    Claudia Hughes

Chris Jones    Leslie Kell

Jerry McDaniel    Susie Page

Dorothy Rascoe    Beth Rimmer