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Brandenburg Vision and Leadership Have Influenced Growth of College

By Irma Gene Nevins

(Excerpts from an article in *The Kansas Teacher*)

Emerson stated, "An institution is the lengthened shadow of one man." An illustration of this statement is found in the leadership of President W. A. Brandenburg of the Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg. During his twenty-five years with the institution it has grown from the Manual Training Normal School to the first rank teachers college and liberal arts college it is today. Men and women who have attended the institution during this period are leaders in various professional and vocational activities and are scattered to all parts of America and some to foreign shores. Growth and development of this kind does not just happen; it is the result of someone's educational vision and leadership.

It is the desire of the faculty, the alumni, and the student body that a celebration to honor President Brandenburg be held. It was decided to hold this the week of March 14 and to call it "Brandenburg Silver Anniversary."

The camaraderie and good fellowship between students and faculty has not changed through the years as has the physical appearance of the campus. There has always been a deep loyalty on the part of the students toward their institution, and this loyalty may be traced directly to the friendly atmosphere that permeates the campus. The President has always endeavored to know the individual student and to give him the recognition which he deserves. He has endeavored to secure as members of the faculty men and women who counted each student as an individual. This school is known for its "respect for personality," and the continuing reason for this is in no small measure the attitude of its President.

The purpose of a teachers college is to prepare persons to be teachers. President Brandenburg believes that that it is this teachers college's purpose to train young men and young women to be the best kind of teachers. To this end he has endeavored to select as instructors for these young folk the best-trained men and women in each field. These instructors are challenged to be alert to the happenings of today and to create a desire on the part of the students to know more about what is going on.

The President has as his philosophy, "The purpose of education is

to guide and develop growing personalities to take their place in an advancing human society." With this belief in mind he is keenly aware of the social and moral offerings of the institution and of the community. He endeavors to see that the best environment possible is provided the students in both school and out-of-school activities. The living conditions and economic situations of the students are real problems to him; therefore he sees that the school assumes responsibility in providing wholesome home life for the students.

At all time President Brandenburg has been aware of the fact that a tax-supported institution is in itself an evidence of public confidence. In his kind and approachable manner he has acted in a fatherly way to the young men and women who have attended the Kansas State Teachers College at Pittsburg. The door of his office is and always has been open to the student who needed his counsel. Another factor to be considered in an institution supported by general taxation is the handling of the funds appropriated to that institution. At all times the President has been just in the administering of those funds and in seeing that each department receives its equitable share.

In the various activities in which President Brandenburg has engaged he has demonstrated an admirable initiative and power of leadership. One can say of him that he has served his community, his state, and his nation in a truly great manner. He has challenged others to do their best.