

CMS Students Making Progress In ESAALP

Ninety per cent of the 6,258 Charlotte-Mecklenburg junior high students involved in last year's Emergency School Aid Act lab program made at least an academic year's progress in one weak skill area, according to the findings of an outside evaluation of the program.

The average gain for all students was 1.5 years in arithmetic, 1.4 years in reading and 1 year in spelling, according to studies of test results by Dr. Earl McCallom of North Texas State University. The findings are in Dr. McCallom's preliminary report; a final report is expected in early September.

"All major objectives stated in the project proposal were met," Dr. McCallom said. "The ninety percent who gained at least one academic year exceeded the 75 per cent success rate that had been projected as well as surpassed the 74 per cent figure in 1973-74 and the 81 per cent figure in 1974-75."

"We are most pleased with the results of the ESAALP program," said a high ranking school official. "It represents a tremendous success in helping students master the

UNCC Expects

8,000 Students

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte expects nearly 8,000 students for the new academic year beginning Monday, Aug. 23.

This compares with 7,570 students at UNCC last fall. UNCC Chancellor D. W. Volvard will welcome some 85 new faculty and staff members at the annual convocation at 10 a.m., Monday. New additions will bring UNCC's teaching faculty to about 422 this year.

Chancellor Colvard in his address is expected to call for a new level of support for the University because of its unique position as a rapidly growing urban institution among the 16 campuses in the University of North Carolina system.

New students will check into the dormitories at 10 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 22. A session for their parents will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday and the Chancellor's reception will be held at 3:15 in the Cone Center.

A week of orientation activities will begin Sunday for students. The advising and registration process will begin Tuesday, Aug. 24.

Classes begin on campus Aug. 30. Registration for the Alexander Graham Junior High School Center of UNCC will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 26 at the school. Students may also register for these courses Aug. 24 and 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at UNCC.

This year will see the beginning of new master's degrees in mathematics and urban administration and a new undergraduate degree in human development and learning.

Construction is expected to begin on a new \$6 million classroom-office building authorized in a bond election by North Carolina voters last spring. Other construction will include a parking deck and some additional parking lots. Officials are hopeful also that construction can begin on dormitory space for 250 students.

basics and is an example of productive use of federal funds."

"I've seen students go in and come out (of the labs) with changed attitudes and improved skills," said Harold Deal, principal of Ranson Junior High. "This is the greatest program we've had from the federal government including Head Start and Title I." Said another principal, Eddie Byers of Kennedy Junior High, "As far as I'm concerned, for the good it does children in reading and math areas, it is the best thing that ever happened to us."

The ESAALP lab program has been operated in CMS junior highs for the past three years.

Under a \$1.4 million grant last year, each of the system's 21 junior high schools had a lab with three full-time teachers and a full-time aide. They provided special help to eligible students in the basic skills of reading, spelling and arithmetic. Any junior high student who scored below the 25th percentile in the school-wide testing program was eligible for the special help.

In the labs each student was tested upon entering and leaving as well as being given appropriate diagnostic tests. A multitude of materials were available within the labs so the teachers could pick the best possible learning situation for each student.

The minimum acceptable "success" rate for each student was a gain of at least an academic year in a weak skill area. Once a student had progressed satisfactorily, he or she was rotated out to make room for another student.

Dr. McCallom's findings are based on his computerized study of tests given to lab students when they entered and when they left the program. Students were administered Wide Range Achievement Tests.

According to Bo Davis, CMS director of the ESAALP project, "someone from outside the school system was chosen to evaluate the test results to insure objectivity."

Other results included in Dr. McCallom's preliminary report include:

-While in the labs, students tended to make the greatest gains in arithmetic, followed by reading and then spelling.

-Seventh grade students tended to make the greatest in the labs than eighth and ninth graders.

-On various tests of reading, spelling and arithmetic, students at all three grade levels demonstrated as a group more than a year's academic growth. This was especially true in arithmetic when 86.4 per cent of the students made one year's progress or more.

The ESAALP labs will continue to operate in all junior highs next year under a \$1 million grant.

S.C. State Starts

New Academic Year
ORANGEBURG, S.C.—Classes will begin Friday, August 27, for close to 4,000 students at South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, following four days of orientation and registration for new students.

College officials welcomed more than 800 freshmen, the largest group ever, to the Orangeburg campus Sunday.



Five contestants took part in the "Miss Cassandra Pageant" Saturday, August 14. Contestants are pictured on the top row. They are Doretha Ashford, third place; Flossie Grier, winner; Lois Porter, fourth place; Mae Rose Tate, second place and Esther Gainey, fifth place. Members of the Cassandra Social Club, bottom row left to right, are Martha McAfee, president; Dorothy Robinson, secretary; Louise Williams, treasurer; Mazette Lewis, business manager and Hazel Pickett, parliamentarian.

PSAT Test Set For October 19

If you're in high school now and thinking about college, you may want to join over 1.2 million other high school students around the world in taking the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test - National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT-NMSQT).

An important first step in making college plans, the test will be given at about 17,500 high schools on Tuesday, October 19, or Saturday, October 23, 1976.

The PSAT-NMSQT, which measures verbal and mathematical abilities important in college work, is cosponsored by the College Board and the

National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

In addition to helping you find out more about yourself and your abilities, the test can lead you to other opportunities. The "Student Bulletin," available from your school counselor, will describe:

how you can enter the competition for scholarships administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation;

how you can enter your name in the College Board's Student Search Service (SSS) files so you can get information from colleges that have programs which meet your

needs and interests.

To help you interpret and make the best use of your test scores, you will receive a booklet called "Your PSAT-NMSQT Scores" with your scores report. It will explain how to estimate your SAT scores. Then, by using "The College Handbook," you can compare yourself with enrolled students at hundreds of colleges and universities. You can also find out your chances of getting into -- and succeeding at -- colleges of your choice.

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