

4. LOCAL SUPPORT FOR POST-HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

The importance the people of Horry County place on their college can be measured concretely by the commitment of their money:

In 1954 interested individuals pledged \$18,000 for the first year's operations.

Between 1954 and 1958 individuals, civic organizations, and businesses underwrote its continued existence by voluntary pledges made and paid.

In 1957 the Horry County Legislative Delegation created the Horry County Educational Fund and Scholarship Board to provide scholarships for needy students, regardless of race, to attend Coastal Carolina and other institutions. For the last ten years funds for this purpose have been incorporated in the annual county supply bill.

In 1958 the taxpayers by a 4-to-1 margin voted a three mill increase to insure its fiscal stability. In 1964 another mill was allocated for its needs.

In 1962 gifts and tax money were committed to establishing a site and constructing the first building.

In 1963 the Horry - Marion - Georgetown Technical Education Commission was created. The Technical Education Center opened in June, 1966.

In 1966 gifts and taxes were invested in a general purpose building.

In 1966 interested patrons formed the Atheneum Society which in less than two years has contributed \$40,000 to strengthening the cultural role of the college in the community. The Society's 137 members not only sponsor cultural programs, plays, lectures, and musical events for the students and community at large, but they also provide a ready and immediate source of funds for the needs of the school.