

College of the City of Detroit

Office of the Dean

THE WILFORD L. COFFEY COLLECTION

1928-1933

3.5 linear feet

7 boxes

Accession Number 329

Wilford L. Coffey was born on a farm near Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, on August 24, 1879. He began his career by first teaching in the Michigan rural school systems of Alpena, Calhoun and Missaukee counties and then by serving as superintendent of schools in Lake City, Wolverine and Forest Union School District.

After joining the State Department of Public Instruction in 1915 as chief clerk and special assistant superintendent, he rose to Superintendent of Public Instruction for Michigan in 1926. Since his forte was school legislation he wrote the Michigan School Code which in 1927 was enacted into law. In gratitude for the way he shaped the Code, Coffey had a new school named in his honor.

Resigning from the post of superintendent, Coffey at the invitation of Frank Cody became the Dean of the College of the City of Detroit in February, 1928. During his tenure the College expanded through consolidation with Detroit Teachers College and closer cooperation with the College of Medicine and Detroit City Law School as well as through launching a new Nursing School and Graduate School.

While Coffey was the Dean of the College and its chief administrator, the College was under the control of the Detroit Board of Education. Coffey resigned from his post in May, 1933, following a dispute with the Board over future organizational plans for the College.

The papers reflect his work as Dean of the College.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Accreditation of Wayne by the North Central Association
Arbitration Society of Michigan College
Reorganization Detroit Public Schools Educational
Associations

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Faculty Standards
History of the College of the City of Detroit
Nursing Department
Relationship between the College of the City of Detroit and the
Detroit Teachers College
School Legislation

Among the correspondents are: (an index to the location of these letters
will be found on the last page of the guide)

James C. Beane
William B. Campbell
Frank Cody
A.C. Lappin
Edwin L. Miller

L.H. Rich
Burt Shurly, M.D.
Maurice Sugar
John F. Thomas
George Zook

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Correspondence, reports and general records relating to the Office
of the Dean arranged by subject.

Series II, Boxes 5-7

Correspondence of Dean Coffey arranged alphabetically.

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Series I
Boxes 1-4

Files are arranged alphabetically by subject and generally cover the period 1928-1933. Those that do not have specific dates attached. Related records might also be found in Series II under the major correspondents.

Box 1

1. Admissions, 1928-1931
2. Accreditation, 1928-1932
3. Alumni Organization
4. Appropriations - Legislative, 1928-1929
5. Arbitration, 1930
6. Association of American Colleges, 1930-1933
7. Association of American Medical Colleges; 1931, 1933
8. Association of Urban Universities, 1928-1932
9. Athletics
10. Blacks, 1929-1933
11. Board of Education - Detroit
12. Budget, 1928-1931
13. Building Maintenance and Security
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15. Coffey - Biographical
16. Colleges of the City of Detroit, 1929-1932
17. College of Pharmacy, 1928-1930
18. Commencement - 1928
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21. Commencement - 1931
22. Commencement - 1932
23. Commencement - 1933

Box 2

1. Deans' Meeting, 1928-1931
2. Detroit City Law School, 1928-1930
3. Detroit College of Medicine
4. Detroit Education Bulletin, 1930-1931
5. Detroit High Schools, 1928-1930
6. Detroit Teachers Association, 1929-1930
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15. Engineering School, 1929-1932
16. Enrollment and Annual Reports
17. Faculty Meeting Notes
18. Faculty Personnel Blanks
19. Family Life Education, 1930

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- 20. Grading
- 21. Graduate Study
- 22. Health Service
- 23-25. High School Principals' Meetings, 1928-1930
- 26. Junior Colleges - Non-Wayne, 1933
- 27. Lunchroom Bids, 1928-1930

Box 3

- 1. March prepared by Arthur Luck, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, 1930
- 2. Michigan Authors Association, 1930
- 3-5. Michigan Education Association, 1928-1931
- 6. National Education Association; 1928, 1930
- 7-8. North Central Association, 1928-1933
- 9. North Central Report, 1929
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- 11. Nursing Department
- 12. Personnel - Non-Academic, 1928-1930
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- 14. - Faculty, Applications
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- 17-23. - Faculty, A-P

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- 1-4. Personnel - Faculty, R-Z
- 5. Pi Gamma Mu, National Social Science Honor Society, 1930-1933
- 6. Projects and Proposals
- 7. Detroit Public Library, 1928-1929
- 8. Registrar, 1927-1932
- 9. Scholarship Association
- 10-11. School Legislation
- 12. Student Accounts
- 13. Student Activities, 1928-1930
- 14. Student Organizations
- 15. Student Publications, 1928-1931
- 16. Student Regulations, 1929-1930
- 17. Summer Session, 1928-1931
- 18. Surveys, 1929-1932
- 19. Text Books and Educational Equipment
- 20. Thesis Correspondence - Coffey
- 21. Torch Club, 1928-1930
- 22. Women's Groups, 1928-1930
- 23. Yearbook of School Law - Chapter by Coffey

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Series II
Boxes 5-7

Continued correspondence of Wilford Coffey in his capacity as Dean. Records are arranged by correspondent, either personal or institutional. Files are organized alphabetically by correspondent. Major correspondents are filed individually, minor correspondents in the general alphabetical file. Correspondence covers the period 1928-1933.

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4. C
- 5-14. Cody, Frank - Superintendent, Detroit Public Schools, 1928-1933
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21. F
22. G
23. Gadd, Charles - Business Manager, Board of Education 1930-1932
24. H
25. I
26. Interior, U.S. Department of
27. J
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8. Thomas, John F., Assistant Superintendent, Detroit Public Schools
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