The Freshman/Community Colleges of Wayne University (1934-1939) was a part of the federal Freshman College Project. The Project's objectives were to employ teachers and to give one year of college education to those who were financially unable to afford it. Salaries for teachers, administrators and supervisors was provided by Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) loans channeled through the State Emergency Relief Administration (SERA) and Orin Kaye, the state director of the Emergency Education Program.

Michigan was divided into eight districts with each state supported college responsible for the supervision and organization of the Freshman Colleges within its geographical districts. Wayne University's district comprised the four most populated counties (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair) in southeast Michigan. On September 10, 1934, Charles L. Spain, Wayne's Executive Vice-President, appointed Professor Harley L. Gibb as Supervising Director for the University's Freshman Colleges.

Under Gibb's direction 25 Freshman College units were organized in 21 communities during September and October, 1934. Afternoon and evening classes were held in local high schools. Credit, conditional credit and non-credit courses were offered with the emphasis placed on credit courses. Students were eligible to attend if they were financially unable to attend a regular institution. Those that did not want college credit did not have to adhere to this regulation. Tentative college credit was given to the student who transferred to Wayne University after completing a year of Freshman College work. However, validation of these credits resulted only after the successful completion of one year at Wayne. No provisions were made for those students who wished to transfer to other colleges. During the 1934-1935 school year, 3,378 students were enrolled and 187 teachers and administrators were employed. The average pay to instructors was $15.00 per week and the unit directors received $18.00.

At a meeting held in Lansing in September of 1935, Michigan's supervising directors changed the program's name and curriculum. "Freshman" Colleges became "Community" Colleges. The new curriculum emphasized non-credit or "Special Interest" courses and included classes such as Aviation, Painting, and Current National Problems. The directors believed that the program should provide more service to the community and enroll more adults not interested in college credits.

Due to federal reorganization, the program was transferred from FERA to the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Funds were not available by October, 1935 to begin the Community Colleges program. On December 19, 1935 Henry Ponitz, the new Director of Emergency Education for Michigan, announced that Washington had finally approved $508,650 for the program and classes should begin as soon as possible. Wayne's Advisory Administrative Committee agreed on December 24 to sponsor the program as they had in 1934. However, only Wayne and Oakland counties were to be involved and the units were reduced from 25 to 11. Lack of interest.
and better quality were the reasons given for this decision. Thus in February of 1936 11 units were in operation enrolling 1,208 students.

The 1936-1937 school year saw the units reduced to 7 with an enrollment of 2,231 and a curriculum consisting mainly of non-academic, special interest courses. Total enrollment for 1937-1938 was 1,328. In the program's final year, 1938-1939 there was a marked increase in the number of students, most of whom were part time, and a decrease in units from 3 to 2. The 1934 objective of providing one year of basic college education to financially impoverished students was replaced by the 1937-1939 objective of providing adult education.

Primarily due to the Federal Relief Appropriation Act of 1939, the program terminated in the summer of 1939. The Act stipulated that persons could be employed under the WPA for eighteen months. Gibb protested that Community Colleges would be required to perpetually train new instructors. The Wayne University Administrative Advisory Committee met in July and agreed that continuation of the program would be almost impossible. This coupled with more WPA regulations and a general lack of enthusiasm among the University's Administration and faculty, ended the program. The special interest courses were transferred to the Adult Education Division of the Detroit Evening Schools. Some credit courses were transferred to the University of Michigan's Correspondence Division. It should be noted that the other state colleges abandoned the program by October, 1936.

The papers of the Freshman/Community Colleges Collection reflect the work of Harley L. Gibb from program's inception in the fall of 1934 until its conclusion in the summer of 1939. They show the Colleges' organization, governmental implementation, community response and the difficulties which led to its subsequent termination.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

- Adult Education
- Michigan Works Progress Administration
- National Youth Administration
- State Emergency Welfare Relief Commission
- Student and Community Questionnaires
- University of Michigan Freshman College Plans and Organization
- Wayne County Welfare Relief Commission
- Works Progress Administration

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

- De Galan, F.S.
- Gibb, Harley L.
- Haber, William
- Haskins, Harley W.
- Henry, David D.
- Johnson, Vern
- Kaye, Orin W.
- Ponutz, Henry J.
- Purdy, G. Flint
- Runo, Robert
- Spain, Charles
Contents

15 Manuscript Boxes

Series I, Boxes 1-3
Correspondence, reports, minutes, clippings and other materials relating to the administration, organization, publicity and development of the Freshman/Community Colleges for the period 1934-1939. Some of the files pertain to other Michigan Community Colleges or other programs which were used as models.

Series II, Boxes 4-7, Box 8 (Folders 1-20)
Correspondence, class schedules, teacher directories, course outlines, examinations and other materials relating to the courses, personnel, and students of the Freshman/Community Colleges, programs with students and personnel, and various classes and seminars that were offered, in particular those relating to adult education.

Series III, Box 8 (Folders 21-41), Box 9 (Folders 1-14)
Forms, requisitions, receipts, and bills relating to the functioning of the Freshman/Community Colleges, 1934-1939. Since the Colleges assigned form numbers to many of their memos and reports, the "forms" in this series include: letters sent to personnel on policy matters, enrollment reports, progress reports and intelligence test findings as well as registration and requisition forms.

Series IV, Box 9 (Folders 15-31), Box 10
Correspondence, bulletins, radio speeches and other materials relating to the Governmental Agencies which administered, funded and structured the Freshman/Community Colleges, 1934-1939. Many of the files pertain to the procedures necessary for following the guidelines of the Michigan Works Progress Administration and the Works Progress Administration.

Series V, Boxes 11-15
This series concerns itself with closed personnel and student records. Correspondence, payroll records, student applications, examinations and grades, 1934-1937.
The Freshman/Community Colleges Collection

Series I
Boxes 1-3

Correspondence, reports and other material which deal with the office of the director of the Freshman/Community Colleges. The material concerns itself with establishing the program, reporting on its developments, and working to maintain enrollment and a successful program. Numerous student correspondence reflects a great interest in the program's early development as well as the many later problems involved with the validation of college credits. To obtain feedback, appraisals were sent to school administrators and people in the community. Since publicity was highly instrumental in making the project well known, there are numerous clippings from high school, neighborhood and other newspapers. Included in this series are the files of the Advisory Administrative Committee which sponsored the project from 1934-1939, and the files of Harley L. Gibb, who supervised the project. The files are arranged alphabetically by subject and cover the period 1934-1939.

Box 1

3. Advisory Administrative Committee-Reports Received, 1936-1937.
12. , 1937.
13. , 1938-1939.
29. Booklet, 6-1937 - Purpose and Organization of the Community Colleges, 1937.
30-38. Correspondence, January, 1934-April, 1937.

Box 2

18-20. - Superintendents, September, 1934-September, 1937.
22. Exhibits - Correspondence and Memos, February, 1936-June, 1937.
23. Field Trip - Inspection of Sections, with Map, October, 1934-January, 1936.
29-32. Minutes - Superintendents, Directors and Faculty, September, 1934-1937.
The Freshman/Community Colleges Collection

Box 3

6. - , February 20, 1936.
7. - , 1936-1937.
8. - , December 5, 1938.
24. - Article, n.d.
25. - Article on Registration, February, 1936-February, 1937.
26. - Press Releases and Articles on Registration and Musical Program, April-June, 1937.
27. - Radio Speeches, June 15, 1936.
29. Suggested Calendar, 1936-1937.
31. Units of the Community Colleges, n.d.

Series II
Boxes 4-7, Box 8 (Folders 1-20)

Correspondence, class schedules, teacher directories and other materials which deal with the courses, personnel and students of the Freshman/Community Colleges. The program began in 1934 with basic college education courses but shifted to adult education courses in 1939. The shift reflected one of the project's major concerns which was to offer those classes which would attract the most students. A variety of seminars, conferences and comparisons of other community college programs were also offered. The folders are arranged alphabetically by subject and cover the years 1934-1940.

Box 4

1-6. Adult and Youth Education - Bulletins, Correspondence and Articles, March, 1938-April, 1939.
7. Adult Education - Article an Additional Training for Teachers, May 18, 1939.
16-19. - Check Sheet for Teachers on Summer Conference, January 31, 1939.
20. - Directory of Adult Education Opportunities in Metropolitan Detroit and Correspondence, November, 1937-July, 1938.
21. - Directory of Adult Education Opportunities in Metropolitan Detroit, September, 1938.
Box 4 cont.

23. - Los Angeles Board of Education, Correspondence and Emergency Adult Information, May 24, 1938.
24. - Seminar on Teaching, 1936.
25. - Seminar on Teaching, May 26, 1936.
27. - Summer Seminar at Wayne University, June 3-July 19, 1938.
28-30. - Summer Seminar at Wayne University; Reports, 1938
32. - Supervisor's Conference Agenda, January 18-19, 1938.
33. - Supervisor's Conference Reports by the Michigan Works Progress Administration and the Community Colleges, February 15-18, 1938.
34. - Wayne University; Schedule of Classes, 1938.

Box 5

2-3. - University of Michigan, July-August, 1938.
5. Catalogs and Announcements, 1934-1939.
15. - Requesting Transcripts for Faculty, December, 1938-February, 1939.
16-24. - Students, September, 1934-February, 1940.
26-30. - Unit Directors' Form Letters and Memos, October, 1934-June, 1937.
31-32. - University of Michigan, Bureau of Appointments, October, 1934-September, 1938.
33. - Wayne University, Memos to Faculty on Grading and Meetings October, 1934-February, 1937.
34-37. Correspondence and Memos - Instructors, September, 1937-November, 1938.

Box 6

1. Correspondence - Study Courses, Miscellaneous Data, October, 1937-January, 1939.
2-3. Correspondence Study Courses - Work Progress Administration, Memos and Correspondence, January, 1936-December, 1938.
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4-5. Course Outlines for Dr. Metcalf, n.d.
6-8. Courses - Instructor's Yearly Outlines, 1939.
10-18. - Progress Reports from Jeff. Unit Community Colleges, February-June, 1939.
20. - Special Interest, Course Memo, February 14, 1936.
22. - Suggested, 1937.
23. Detroit Advanced Intelligence Test - Booklet, Test and Graph, n.d.
25. Examinations - English I.
26. - English II, with Key and Scoring.
28. - History II, with Key.
30. Final Examinationm Schedule, June, 1936.
31. , February, 1937.
36-39. , Correspondence and Memos, January, 1938-May, 1939.

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1-2. Final Examinations - Correspondence and Memos, n.d.
5. - Home Assistants, 1938.
13-16. - Special Book Reports, May, 1939.
17. - Teacher Directory.
19. Interpretation of Freshman College Test Results, July, 1935.
31-32. Personnel - Unit Staffs, February-September, 1936.
33-34. Personnel - Western Union Telegrams and Copies, November, 1934-October, 1938.
35. Questionnaire - To Parents of Students in Freshman Colleges
36. - To Students in Freshman Colleges
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3. List for Freshman Colleges from Wayne University and Postcards Sent to Them, October 29, 1934.
4. Questions for Discussion
5-6. Unit Honor Point Ratings.
7-8. Unit Honor Points
11. Textbooks - Number Purchased by Out of Town Units, February-June, 1936.
12. - March-September, 1936.
13. Travel Expenses - For Advisors Serving Without Compensation.
14-20. Youth Survey and Educational Summary, April-August, 1938.

Series III
Boxe 8 (Folders 21-41), Box 9 (Folders 1-14)

Forms, requisitions, receipts and bills relating to the functioning of the Freshman/Community Colleges. The requisitions, receipts and bills are examples showing what was paid, what was required to be filled out and what was requisitioned in the day to day business of the Freshman/Community Colleges. "Forms" used by the Community Colleges included: progress reports, form letters to personnel, departmental memos, enrollment reports and intelligence test findings. Forms M-WU-FC-78 and 83 have had some of their last pages removed as they contained confidential intelligence ratings, names, grades, etc. The last series, which is closed, has these reports in their entirety. The files are arranged alphabetically by subject and cover the years 1934-1939.

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23. - CC-20, Wayne University Community Colleges' Report of Progress, February 20, 1936".
24. - CC-21-26, 28, 29, 36, 37.
25. - CC-55-58, 60.
27. - Detroit Board of Education and Detroit Public Schools.
28. - Guide and Miscellaneous.
29. - Wayne University, College of the City of Detroit, Detroit Teachers College.
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40. M-WU-FC-84, 92, 108.
41. Receipts - Books and Magazines.

Box 9

1-4. Receiving and Inspection Report, March-April, 1936.
5. , and Correspondence, April, 1936-September, 1937.

Series IV

Box 9 (Folders 15-31), Box 10

Correspondence, bulletins, radio speeches and other materials which deal with the various governmental agencies responsible for the Freshman/Community Colleges Program. Those agencies involved were: the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, Michigan Emergency Welfare Relief Administration, Michigan Works Progress Administration, National Youth Administration, State Emergency Welfare Relief Commission, State Works Progress Administration, Wayne County Welfare Relief Commission and the Works Progress Administration. It should be noted that the Works Progress Administration functioned on both the state level (Michigan or State Works Progress Administration) and on the national level (Works Progress Administration). All of these organizations were important to the program as they funded and administered the colleges programs, from the salaries of teachers to the validation of financially impoverished students. The files are arranged alphabetically and cover the years 1934-1939.

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16. Forms - State Emergency Relief Administration and Works Progress Administration.
17. Michigan Emergency Welfare Relief Administration (MEWRA) - Booklet, Talks with Freshman College Teachers.
18. MEWRA - Physical Activities, April, 1935.
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29-30. National Youth Administration (NYA) - Correspondence, July, 1936-April, 1939.
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1-3. NYA - Time Reports.
   4. Report - Statewide Coordination meeting of Federal Agencies Operating in Michigan, with Letter, April-June, 1936.
17. SEWRC - Memorandum on Community Colleges, September 19, 1934.
20. Works Progress Administration (WPA) - on Adult Education Program.
21. WPA - on Adult Education Workshop at University of Michigan, 1938.
23. - , #8 Revision, August 6, 1935.
27. - , #36 "Labor Relations", November 13, 1935.
30. - National Youth Administration, Forms.
32. Workshop and Training Institute for WPA on Education Teachers, July, 1939.

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This series concerns itself with closed personnel and student records. The materials include: personnel correspondence and payroll records, student applications, correspondence, examinations and grades. This series is arranged in two sections: personnel materials and student materials. Each section is arranged alphabetically by subject and/or school name and folders are chronological within each subject. One exception to this order is the first three folders of student applications, which cover applications in general rather than by individual school. The series covers the period 1934-1937.

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1-4. Correspondence, Personnel - Harley L. Gibb, November-August, 1934

Box 12

  4.       , - Alganac, 1934.
  5.       , - Capac, 1934.
  6.       , - Cass Tech, 1934
  13.     , - Eastern (Approved), September, 1936.
  14.     , - Eastern (Rejected), September, 1936.

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  3.       , - Ecorse, 1934.
  4.       , - Ferndale, June, 1936.
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  7.       , - Loans, September, 1934-September, 1935.
  8.       , - Non-Credit, 1937-1938.
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  13-14.     , - Northern (Approved), June, 1936.
  15.     , - Northern (Dropped), June, 1936.
  16.     , - Northern (Rejected), June, 1936.

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  3.       , - February-June, 1937.
  5.       , - Southwestern, October, 1936.
  6.       , - February, 1937.
  7.       , - Rejected Lists, February-June, 1936.
  8.       , - River Rouge, 1934.
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11-12. , Student - Wyandotte, 1934.
18. - Student Requests for Transcripts, May-August, 1935.

Box 15

1-3. Correspondence - Student Requests for Transcripts, September, 1935-May, 1937.
4. Examinations, Accounting - Student Grades, April, 1936.
5. , Comprehensive English - Student Grades, June, 1936.
6. , Eligibility Lists - Student Grades, April-October, 1936.
7-10. , Finals Lists - Student Grades, April-October, 1936.
17. Record of Grades - Students of Wayne University Community Colleges, June, 1936.