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Dr. Tony Jenkins

November 16, 2000

Dr. Anthony: So what do you have represented here?

Well, I just brought some things like the first catalogue and the first schedule, but I also brought some of that stuff I used to build that second spring schedule, and just the fact that we had nothing, anything.

Dr. Anthony: Cut & Paste...

That was a real funny one. I literally, this is how I did it. I did it on my living room table at home. I didn't even have a piece of paper big enough. I taped 8 ½ by 11 papers together and had cut out all the courses I wanted to have and I cut them out, putting them on here, laying them down so I could move them around and make a good schedule. I really maintain that this was the cleanest, most percent made schedule we've ever done. It was the first time we had classes in the day and I remember going into your office in October and say we don't have a schedule yet, and you told me, well go make one. And I said, well I don't know how to make one and I remember you telling me, how hard can it be? Monday, Wednesday Friday for 50 minutes, Tuesday and Thursday for an hour and 15 minutes. And so that's what we did. I've saved this all along because I think it's indicative of just what made things happen. May have had some hesitation at first, but you pretty much just made it happen. Lot of interesting things like that.

Dr. Anthony: As you reflect back, anything stand out during those first few years?

You came on in what role?

Actually I interviewed with Ed Simonson and Walter Pike in June 1985. I had just gotten a masters degree, called up and Ed said, yea I think we could use somebody like you. Why don't you come up and talk to us. Went in, met them both. I interviewed at the Republic Bank Tower in their board room. And I'm thinking, wow this is fancy... little did I know. First of July Walter called me back and said he wanted me to come back in, help him with state reports with all the records and admissions stuff cause that's what my background was. And he had checked me out and knew that I was familiar with state reporting. He said, I don't know what your title's going to be and I don't know what your job's going to be, but I'll pay you this much for now and as soon as Dr. Anthony gets here we'll decide all that's what to happen. So I started the first of August, I reported for work at the new Pittman Suite and nobody was there so I called Walter and ya know, he forgot I was coming. So I went over to the Public Bank Towers. I worked at every location. The first day I went to the Public bank Tower he said, you know, we've got to start classes by the end of august, he said, we've got to get some publicity out on them. And I'm thinking, yea right. So the second day at work I was at the Dallas Morning News trying to get some promotional material together and I just kind of hit the ground running. But I think that sticks with me most is the spirit of literally doing whatever it takes and my role evolved as liaison with Grayson County College and I have got some contracts that we had with Grayson. At first they were really doing everything for us in terms of our administrative functions and computer functions and things administration, reports and so I was making trips up to Grayson 3 times a week, to get things back and forth, get reports so we knew what we were doing cause we didn't really have any other records. Then that spring semester we'd started to maintain a separate shadow database, basically

trying to line on electronics, we had more immediate information available to us. We negotiated that contract 2 or 3 times with Grayson so that we were capable of doing more on our own. They did less and we did more. I think I really had to walk a fine line to try to maintain that relationship with Grayson because they were so valuable to us, we had to have a good public relationship. Yet I realize we were taking a huge chunk of the Grayson population and a lot of the people who had been working in Collin County and making the loads, faculty had been making the loads in Collin County, so we put a real strain on that institution in the beginning. So I think my role initially was to kind of move a lot of those feathers and help us grow and I think I did a lot to help them through that transition too. I met regularly with the department heads up there cause they were staffing really that first whole year – first fall completely and even the first year cause we didn't have instruction administrators till November. They really did a lot for us that first spring too. That was kind of a unique role. I got the Director of Admission title in November. I remember those first few months and someone calling in and say, I need to speak to your Financial Aide officer – I hesitated a minute, and said, ok, I can help you with that. I want to talk to your Director of Human Resources before Kim got there, it's like, ok, I can help you with that. And that was the way it was. Trying to get authorization for a VA. We got called to court. David McCall represented us in C\court. We were sued by a Veteran in the second month we were open. A veteran sued us because he couldn't get his benefits, we weren't established to do that yet. I remember working with UT Austin, try to get them to say in writing or recognize our courses and transfer them because they were the flagship institution and they had to say that they would do that so I could say to everybody else, UT is recognizing the courses and so my relationships with the people in

records and admissions areas at the other institutions was real helpful in those early days so we could help our students make those transitions to the four year universities. Was really glad to see Billie Collins come in at the time cause she.... As people came in I unloaded parts of my responsibility and picked up other things. Just keeping all those services for students together initially. I interviewed faculty, Kathy cotter, Martha Tolleson, some of those folks who had been teaching at Grayson. When Steve Ellis and Herb Peoples came in they were like, who are these people and I was glad to pass some of that off when they got there. I think there was such a “can do” attitude, such a spirit even when we moved up to 500 university. There were those three rooms we used to laugh about, you know, we’d gotten so big. We were split and here you couldn’t just holler around the corner to somebody but it was still... we moved into Central Park Campus and remember going up Sunday evening to hang signs and the paint was still wet and we couldn’t hang signs, so we had to come in real early in the morning to sign up for registration. Those who have been with it from that time period still have that attitude, they’ll do whatever it takes to get the job done. Some of the ones who’ve come in and had the luxury and having a more well-defined role probably see themselves a little more narrowly.

Dr. Anthony: You also got involved with the distribution of books?

Oh yeah, we set up that little bookstore at Parker and Independence a little store front and I remember going up there one day and loading a \$14,000 inventory of textbooks in the back of my car and taking it to McKinney High School loading them in. That night things were crazy, just chaos, books were flying out the door, book money was coming in. I

remember taking all the money back, they didn't have a lot of personnel either and I took all the money and all the remaining books back and I told the guy who was running them, Steve Letford, and I remember taking it back to him and saying, I don't want to hear a word. And if you don't like it and it doesn't balance, you do it yourself next time. And that's pretty much the way it was. We collected ballots for our first Trustee Election that May. I was the only one who knew where Blue Ridge was, so I had to go to Blue Ridge. I was about 8 months pregnant and I waited out there for those Blue Ridge returns forever. Must have had all 48 ballots and they kept counting it and recounting and couldn't get it right and there were a bunch of old guys hanging around waiting outside the school, waiting for the returns and I was kinda hanging out there with them, I was by myself. I remember finally they came out and they got ready to hand these to me and they said, how do we know you are who you say you are? Are you with the college? I looked at them and I said, who else would stand out here and do this? Early on I probably had a chance to visit all 4 corners of the county and benefited from that early experience of being able to go out. I loved going out to some of the small towns and small districts. I remember having to change my whole demeanor. I'd have to slow down and have to start being more patient when I was listening cause I had a tendency to finish their sentences because they just move a little slower talking to some of those... Perry Robinson from Wylie High School, he was just a good ol' boy. It certainly was different and some of them haven't changed at all, and some them have. I remember going to Anna High School before they moved into their new facility and I wasn't real sure they had indoor plumbing, in fact I'm real sure it was an add-on to their building. Usually the students were receptive to us. I look at what we did in the community of Farmersville where if

they had 20% - 15% of their kids that were going on to college – that was a high percentage. They weren't going on, they weren't leaving there and you know within a couple years of us opening 35-45% are going to Collin County. So now they're getting started and I think what we were able to do in some of those communities really made an impact. But I like working with all those diverse people.

Dr. Anthony: As you think back what are some other interesting thing you might want to be put in the book?

I think the stories about Walter Pike and you've probably gotten some of them, they're really kinda fun to reflect on cause I mean... just the other day they made some changes in the office and I said, well where'd that desk go, and they said it's gone. It's gone to desk heaven and it was one that Walter Pike had gotten for us and I'm sure that desk had been around since the beginning. Walter had gone out, and he was so excited cause he'd found it at an estate sale and they had 2 or 3 other desks. But we picked them up.

Dr. Anthony: The picture he got, picture nobody wanted, but he bought it for \$10.

Heck of a deal. The first office I went into over there in Republic we had literally 2 file cabinets and a door over them for his desk. I remember Rod Berg and those people sitting around doing our interviews in his office and I'm thinking, this is real professional. Who would come work for us – what are we doing here? Walter was so tight with the money, in reflection it was a good thing. He was so conservative and really set us on the right track of a lot of things. I remember looking at my budget, probably the second year, looked at my budget in April and had all this money and went back in May and I didn't have any money. It was gone. I said, Walter, what happened here? And he said you didn't need it, you didn't spend it so you must not need it. I said, now Walter all these expenses

come in summertime for preparing for the fall semester to start, I really wish you wouldn't do that. So he had an interesting way of budgeting and stuff. But remember Olie Johnson coming in and was fabulous to work with. He'd tell stories and for years after that we use to call up or Judy Richardson would call up and we'd all sit around and talk to home for a minute. I think it was fun having all those people come from different places, working with people you knew in Portland, working with people like Rod who was here in this area, had just had such a wealth of experience.

Dr. Anthony: And the bookstore lady we brought in. Can't remember her last name off hand.

We brought in a PR person early on too. It seemed like that office over at Pittman was – it was like people coming in and we all got kind of close professionally because it was such a small group. You had to kind of pitch in and do it. Beth Henry was so prim and proper then. The rest of us rolled up our sleeves and got our hands dirty.

Dr. Anthony: I do recall one time and she surprised me. She was in Public Information. A truck fell over and all our schedules were dumped out on Parker and 75. So she and I go down there, we're picking them up. I said here's the Director of Public Information and the President picking up schedules. Put them all in a bundle and someone came and picked them up.

I'll never forget this story (of course you won't want this in your book). Beth and Peter Lightner went to lunch one time and she opened her purse to put on her lipstick and instead she pulled out a tampon! The flexibility maybe too was fun because you couldn't get set in your ways. Nobody could and so I think it was fun when those people came in from different places and challenged you to do things and think a little bit differently. I

mean, I think that's truly the value of consultants that to rely on that other viewpoint. I was thinking about my career and how I'm spoiled. The only place I have been really to develop professionally has been in this institution that has been so dynamic and so vibrant that to go any place else I can't imagine what it's going to be like... what the culture's going to be like. The culture at Collin County Community College is just so dynamic from my point of view - some people aren't but most of us are.

Dr. Anthony: Characters? Stories? Incidents?

I have a good Ralph story. I remember we had a student development retreat over at Debbie's house one day and it was payday. Ralph really didn't know everybody, and he wasn't there so we decided to pull a little practical joke on him. Barbara Money, he didn't know Barbara's voice, called him up and posed as a bank teller at the Plano Band and Trust and said, Mr. Hall, I have one of your staff here to cash a payroll check and I'm afraid there's insufficient funds and just want to alert you. And Ralph was on the other end just stuttering and stammering away and he's not entirely sure it's not true. Oh, he was just all over himself and Barbara's very business like and continued saying I just wanted to know how you'd like me to hand this? Ralph finally realized it was a joke and I can't repeat what he said. But we got one in on him.

Dr. Anthony: Remember the retreat at Lake Texoma?

Yep. Walt played the piano, that's the only time I ever heard him, tried to get him to play, kept saying Walt can't play the piano. I was going through morning sickness and I didn't want anybody to know. Steve Ellis drove, I got out of the car and make a b-line to the bathroom. Kim came in and I had to tell somebody and I said, I don't want anybody to know. I begged him to let me sit in the front seat on the way back. I started here in

August and got pregnant in September. That was not the plan. We'd been trying for a couple of years, so I wasn't thinking anything was going to happen and I remember being afraid to tell. I actually didn't know for sure until November and I was afraid to tell Debbie. I had told you, I wasn't trying to keep it from her but I didn't know her well enough. When I came back from Christmas break and I had to wear clothes that were definitely showing. They had a shower for me. Walter kept a big surprise, Walter was kind of funny cause he thought I was reporting to him even though I was reporting to Debbie. And Walter still acted like I was reporting to him. And I used to let him think that, it made him happy. He used to tell me that he hired me to work for him and I abandoned him and went to work for Student Development and he never forgave me for that. The baby was due on the 20th and I was working one day and Walt use to yell down the halls, hey big Tony... he was prepared to clear off the desk. I said Walter, I'm just plain tired, I have to go home and that was Friday and I had the baby on Sunday. A lot of things changed that summer. That was the summer that was our first summer. Billie Collins filled in for me. Lou Connor came that summer, there were a lot of changes. Patty Berg was the Financial Aide person. Beth Payne was upstairs working with Debbie. I think the next thing that stands out as real challenges was the bond election. I remember you asked me to handle that. There was a lot of things going on in my life at the time but I was reluctant to do it anyway. There was a lot of research done on that, lot of things we'd done on the first election that I have a lot of that stuff compiled in one place. I remember making penny pins, penny to grow on. You know how... we didn't set up an account for donations till we got our first donation, really weren't raising a lot of money but did a lot of speaking, did a lot of presentations.

Dr. Anthony: And it was a timing issue, as everything else.

It was horrible, everything failed.

Dr. Anthony: Plano school district – first time they ever got to feed in.

I have to say I was glad. You know, cause we were out first and when we got to feed it I thought oh my gosh. I wasn't just glad, it was a relief, it wasn't just us. I learned a lot about the political side of things. We consciously made a decision to do a very low key approach. That was an interesting time.

Dr. Anthony: We had a lot of diverse experience that first year.

Couldn't have anywhere else. I'm thankful and grateful to you.

Dr. Anthony: You earned everything you got.

Well, I'm not afraid to work hard but I've gotten go do a lot of different things. That was a lot of fun. Getting to do more, it's just been great.

Dr. Anthony: Any other character you can think of? Much to do with DeCody?

I didn't have a lot to do with DeCody. When I left for maternity leave things changed dramatically on that summer regarding Herb. And I didn't even know all that had happened with him. I just knew he was in a different role when I came back and he was looking for something else. Now, I liked Herb, he wasn't on the same plane as everybody else, he wasn't a fit. And I don't think we could have known that. He was just in a different direction and I think back on the early faculty we had and all that, the camaraderie. I enjoyed, I mean I don't go out to lunch with faculty now. I don't have a lot of free time. But those first couple years, Martha Tolleson, Kim and I use to out a lot. That was really fun. I wish we could have kept that. We end up kind of divided. Student Development, Administration, Faculty and I like, what we had early on, it was neat. You

can't hold on to it cause you just get big. I remember when Steve Ellis first came and Steve was working with that spring schedule and he said, who in the world did this. I did. How was he ever going to staff this, I don't know how, guess you have to make him work when he wanted to work. He just couldn't believe how we'd done this. Steve was always kind of a peacemaker,, you know. I think people really miss Steve now. I think he had a good sense of builder. Didn't confront things sometimes and avoided controversy and competent thought things, but he usually had a sense of humor and that was such a great thing about him. Heard a story about Mary Fields the other day. We were talking about shoulder pads and Mary Fields and apparently one of the shoulder pads slipped down and so she brought them both down then.

Dr. Anthony: Do you remember the time she backed into the spray system, she set it off. Her butt went in and the thing came down on top of her. It was almost like a wet T-shirt.

Billy Cunningham... it was around 1990-91 we went to the Dallas County retreat that week long thing they do in Mexico. We've had really good energetic people.

Dr. Anthony: I have 3 of the gals who take me to lunch every other month, Kay Mizel, Sharon Hosack and Peggy Brown. And we go to lunch at Nick's Grill. I really can't think of too many bad people we had. Remember Randy Licklighter, the guy with the cowboy boots? Taught computers of Business or something for a couple years.

Yea, I remember that. The two that dressed alike.

Dr. Anthony: They weren't husband and wife to start.

At the start they weren't, but then he ended up... Sue and Bill Hanks. They'd come in dressed in pink shirts or baby blue sweaters. It was the weirdest. The DeGeeteers, Pat DeGeeter, Daryl, husband was with Plano ISD.

Dr. Anthony: Daryl was very active in the formation of the college too. Served on one of the committees.

I was living in Collin County at the time and I didn't get involved in the start up, I was working at Brookhaven. I just kind of signed the petition. I knew about it but I didn't know much about any of the details.

Dr. Anthony: I was interesting to see how they got the petitions. Prior to start up of classes in '85. I've got all that history down, although had a little controversy as to how the college started. We had 3 different points of view, but I think I've settled on the right one. Who did what... Mr. McCall, Sr. said that it was David McCall, his son. And that went on and on. I talked to Judge Roberts, he said, no actually it was Howard Thornton drinking coffee over in Frisco one time with Jerry Hoagland and he was upset cause he had to pay out of district tuition for his daughter to go to Dallas. he said why don't we have a community college in Collin County and Jerry Hoagland said, that's a good idea. He said I know Bill Priest and I think that's actually the way it started. And of course Wayne Hendrick said it got started with Grayson and Ernie Horaney. I interviewed Ernie.

What was his take? My impression was Ernie thought he was going to be a first VPI.

Dr. Anthony: I think initially he was trying to be the first president and then was angling to be first VPI and then angling for anything... Continuing Ed. He's now a professor up at UNT. He said that he recalled that Truman Webster was the

president at Grayson before Jim Williams. And Truman wanted a presence down here and talked to Wayne, and Wayne's a lot like Dr. Pike use to be. And he said I'd be willing to pay somebody's half salary. Wayne said, I will do it. And then came Ernie. Ernie can do that.

Remember registration over at Plano Sr. High? The lines and tables, people. We literally couldn't get in there till school was out, 4:30. and we'd be taking everything with us. The first time courses were just all manual. Then we tried setting up computers. Half the time they worked, half the time they didn't. course nobody had mobile phones at the time. We were trying to find a pay phone. Loaded all that stuff in there and we would and everyone was expected to go over there and register. You went, Dick DeCody went, everybody was there.

Dr. Anthony: Didn't we register in Farmersville and places like that?

The first year we had 5 evening locations: Plano, Plano East, McKinney, Frisco and Wylie. Then the spring we opened up to Farmersville. We had some classes in Farmersville, in fact Cary and I went out to Farmersville just a few weeks ago, and Wylie last week. It comes up every now and then that we're not doing enough in Farmersville, not doing enough in Wylie. We got all the stuff out about all the classes we've been offering up there, what had made, what hadn't made. About 30% of what we offered out there made, except for the concurrent classes.

Dr. Anthony: I remember Wylie. We were dealing with a Continuing Ed gal, remember her?

In fact when we went out there last week they were wanting to know about us teaching some technology courses and I said, we can do some of these things, but what's the status

of your Continuing Ed program? Continuing Ed's always been pretty strong out here. I don't know whether she's still there or not, I don't think so because there was a no, no, no, we can do some things now. Joyce Helens came in and burnt every bridge we had built. Continuing Ed people...

Dr. Anthony: Yes, she did. Were you with us, it wasn't too long ago when we were looking for sites in Wylie. Walt had identified a few sites. We went to this one site next to a _____. It was terrible. Then we go out to Farmersville, he had this wonderful site. We walk inside this thing, there's no roof. The roof had collapsed – this is wonderful! Got a downtown location. If you walked in there the entire roof was out of the place.

I've got a deal like that in Rockwall right now. They want to give us Rochelle Elementary School. Now there's a reason they want to get rid of it. It's a perfect location cause it's right on I-30. one of the reasons they want to get rid of it is they got playgrounds that are literally backing up to I-30, an access road right between the big churches out there right down from the Economic Development Center offices. So I keep asking, why do they really want to give us Rochelle Elementary and why do we want it cause it doesn't have any wiring or infrastructure to handle the technology. It was the first elementary school in Rockwall. Nah, I don't think so. Farmersville comes up every day on the ad. We got all this information together and they've been having these concurrent enrollment classes. And out of every class there isn't enough people from Farmersville taking them to make the class. It would not work at all in Farmersville at all if we didn't have Blue Ridge coming in and Princeton coming over and community coming up. They're paying all those taxes out there. Going out to Lavan and Josephine. Have you

been out to Community High School? That was always an interesting one. They and _____ spend more on technology than some of the other school do just because they got all these grants, which they really need.

Dr. Anthony: Yes, because 10-15 years ago when I was out there they had a satellite moving stuff from UT Austin over the satellite.

They use more of the ridge and tin stuff than a lot of the bigger schools have. I got a little worried the other day that Rockwall ISD's probably going to need that space out there. We've got 1 ½ years left on that lease. The enrollment is going fabulous. We've got over 500 students enrolled, 25 classes made, 65 full-time students that are all taking 12 hours in Rockwall. We have some full time faculty working over there that really seem to like it. Doug Proffer is not teaching, he's kind of our faculty liaison over there – pay him on an hourly basis when ever he works. He's a resource for the faculty. If they have questions and a liaison between the faculty and the divisions. We've got a coordinator over there who's also doing a lot of this. But if the faculty just wants to know how can I make this work... and we had a faculty problem earlier this semester... right away we knew we had a problem and Doug was real helpful.