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Recommended Citation

Anthony, John Dr., "Dr Wayne Hendrick" (2019). *John Anthony Collection Interviews*. 14.
https://digitalcommons.collin.edu/anthony_interviews/14

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Dr. Wayne Hendrick,
Former superintendent of schools for Plano Independent School District

Dr. Anthony: Tell me Wayne when you got involved. When was your first contact with the community college of Collin County?

Ya know that's been so long ago and so much water under the bridge. You know we got started on this in the mid to late sixties. We creeded the college district didn't we then? We had a successful vote on that and did creed the district. Then we came back immediately then with bond finds. You may have visited with more people who would contradict that and I'll go with them. We were just beginning to go and there were so many things happening. But I know we got that voted down and we just dropped it.

Dr. Anthony: Do you recall where the impetus for that come. Did it come out of the school district?

In the 60s? I know David McCall, St. and Truit Smith took Wylie and we had a bank then. There was some fellow that I think was kinda close to those two guys in McKinney, Johnny Wisenant. And the best I can remember those 3 guys and you know David and I talked about it and I'd say David McCall was probably the strongest one on that and worked really hard and was disappointed when we didn't pass the bond. I know we analyzed it and I know determined in our mind that we didn't pass the bond issue. For the life of me I can't remember, we had some organized opposition, probably the farmers. McKinney was still basically still farm community and I know the taxes began to go up because it began to get some growth and the farmers were having a tough time. So I

would suspect it was the farm vote that got us on that one. Not that they were against the college, they just felt that they had all the burden of taxation they could stand and we could appreciate that because I think they were seers. The opposition was really seers, in my own mind. And I know about that same time we got about 2 or 3 guys on were hired by a board which that was before that equalization taxation thing at the state level. McKinney didn't have any tax man, Lynn was on the road. At \$50 an acre you couldn't have bought it then. There was no industry, property taxes were high. So we probably were out ahead of where we're ought to have been. Then we went along several years. I don't remember the year we got it started and I don't john, I don't know, I don't want to take credit for that. I'd safely say, we got it started again. I'd say David McCall... but I remember calling David and going over to his business and out of that he called a meeting or I called a meeting and whether we did that with the encouragement from some other folks in the county, I just don't remember. I do remember calling David and said if I set it up will you pay for the lunch and get us a room over at the Harvey Hotel. Couldn't have been too many of us. Whether that was the first meeting that anybody could get it started off – in the interim Dallas had got their program (their junior college) going and I believe Bill Priest started that. Somewhere I got to know Bill Priest. I met him on the way to Austin on the airplane and I've really got the greatest respect for the guy and I think we got to be good friends. But when I met him, I thought that homely, county-looking guy can't be Bill Priest. His old suit was real wrinkled, he had on an old trench coat – looked like he slept in it the nite before and I introduced myself to him on the plane because there weren't many people on the plane and he said he's Bill Priest. Bill Priest!! So we had a nice visit and had contact after that. The Grayson College you know

Williams up in Grayson County? Jim Williams had been visiting with me that he wanted us to join them and he was putting some pressure... I don't know where he was getting that pressure but he was really wanting me to come out and get the county or the Plano people to join the Grayson College. I told Jim, we're oriented south and I went down and saw Bill professionally and I told him what was happening. What do you think? Bill, you know Bill, you people still are country people but you're going to come to Dallas. You don't need to go north. And I remember then it hitting him... or some king of after thought, after that and he may have done that. I'll bet that was what he encouraged us to pick this up again. I'll bet ya that was why. Because I believe it was David and we had that meeting set up, I believe, I talked to David and said why don't I call Bill Priest. I believe Bill was in on that first meeting. And then from there the people who were at the meeting and I don't recall other than David McCall who else was there. From that I really believe things that we had pretty soon we decided to invite Bill to come and begin to meet with us and guide us. And then I know he brought a guy from California, and then Ed began to have some meeting with us. Gosh with me and Bill and Ed, first thing ya know, we had it going. I image Bill... Bill knew what he was doing, he convinced everybody else he knew what he was doing and it just moved after that. first thing ya know we had one, then first thing ya know we had two.

Dr. Anthony: Quick 15 year...Did you play a role Wayne once they got the thing organized working with the committees on structure, building? Cause I know you and I talked very early about locating facilities and you had given me some good advice. I didn't take it... gave me good advise on where we ought to locate the campuses.

John, as you would expect, I know I was involved all that I could be but you know it seems to me like that we set up a board of trustees pretty fast, didn't we? I think Bill did push for that and then I know Jim Dixon, Jim was assistant superintendent and I believe any help I gave was through Jim. I don't know how we came across this property.

Dr. Anthony: They had that property pretty well set before I got here. In know you were talking to me about a piece of property out in the Allen area, McDermott Road off of Central as a good central location.

Well, all of that's hazy and I don't want to tell you something that I didn't do. We had a lot of good help. I think that when we got it going again, and I'd say Bill Priest – he's smooth. I'd say if we did anything right when we started them thing it was because Bill was there to guide us. And I remember him saying, we've got to get a Board, we need to get a president and let them take it from here as much as possible. And they did, when you came, and that was the best thing that happened. It's a great college. Do you remember Bill Rutherford. I use to talk to him about you, but see every so often old Rutherford called me up and we'd go to Fish Mongers. About that time didn't get started on trying to get freshmen and sophomore grades at UTD that started as a graduate junior and senior as graduates and then I think about the same time I remember mentioning to Bob and Bill Priest well is that going to be a junior college?

Dr. Anthony: That was one of the options when we were first starting was to go to UTD as doing the undergraduate and not needing a community college in Collin County. But that didn't fly very far.

As I remember it John, is that... did you ever meet Eric Johnson and see everything good in this area based in Dallas Forth Worth Airport, Johnson did most of that and this whole thing out here, he put that property together UTD. And I got to know him real well, because I was trying to get a school sign-off and he was determined I wasn't going to get the school signOff. We'd miscalculated out near the Jackson Elementary school it was too late. The only place we could get a site.