

College Enrollment Seen 8,760 By 1968

By HARRY FLESHER

The new Thomas Nelson Community College, scheduled to open in September 1968, is expected to have a total enrollment of 8,760 by the sixth year of operation.

This was made known Friday in Richmond by Dr. Dana B. Hamel, director of the Virginia Department of Community Colleges.

State officials are expediting a project to get under way at the earliest possible moment erection of buildings representing an investment of \$1.4 million to be equipped at a cost of \$465,000.

These will rise on a site in

Hampton off Interstate 64 at Big Bethel Road.

Hamel said that when the college opens the initial enrollment is expected to be 750 to 1,000 total with a faculty of 46 persons.

The anticipated enrollment in two years, which would be the opening of the third year of activity, is 6,350.

Of the 8,760 enrolled in the sixth year, it is estimated 2,560 will be full-time day students and 6,200 will be night students.

The 6,350 enrolled in the third year would include 1,850 full-time day students and 4,500 night students.

The tuition for those attending will be \$45 per quarter or \$15 per month.

The advisory board for the college acted Thursday night to select the name of the college after choosing as its chairman T. Melvin Butler, assistant director for administration of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Langley Research Center.

Generally speaking, the college will serve the communities of Hampton, Williamsburg, Yorktown and Newport News.

Value Cited

From the standpoint of training for employment, the state agency has pointed out that by 1970 it is estimated 68 per cent of all jobs in the nation will require training beyond high school and that over half of such jobs will be available to persons trained in a community college.

The community college is further described as a two-year degree granting institution of higher education designed to meet the educational and training needs of the region, a commuter institution serving persons within a 35 to 40 mile radius; a school characterized by superior training with strong emphasis on counseling and guidance.

An enrollee must be a high school graduate or one with an equivalent in credits or a person 18 years of age who is able to benefit from instruction.

Programs will include occupational and technical education, freshman and sophomore years in the arts and sciences for transfer to a baccalaureate degree program, general education, continuing adult education, pre-college and pre-technical courses, special training programs for new and expanding industry, and specialized regional services to meet cultural and educational needs.

Local Investment

The only local investment will be in the ground, the access road into the site, and utilities brought to the site itself.

The remainder of the expense is that of the Commonwealth, which can and does obtain federal grants to supplement state funds.

The Hampton Vocational-Technical Center will come under the control of the community college in so far as its work is for persons beyond high school age is concerned.