

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

U R B A N U N I V E R S I T Y P R O G R A M

The Board of Governors of Rutgers University at its meeting on March 14, 1969, adopted a far reaching experimental and even revolutionary program for educationally and economically disadvantaged students. The program is called the Rutgers Urban University Program.

Since 1965, all of the undergraduate colleges of Rutgers University have made an effort to recruit students who although they are not at the moment able to meet the established admissions requirements are believed to be talented people who can overcome past handicaps if they are given certain developmental courses, some individual tutoring, and some special counseling. These students are given, then, the additional instructional help they need as well as the necessary financial aid from Federal and State programs for disadvantaged students. The expectation is that these students will complete a regular Rutgers course of study and earn a true Rutgers degree. As a result of these efforts, by the Fall of 1968 about 550 full-time and several hundred part-time students from disadvantaged and minority groups were enrolled in the University. The budget for special programs had risen to \$850,000.

The Rutgers Urban University Program is a dramatic and bold extension of these earlier efforts. The Board of Governors stated in its resolution of March 14, "The University as a part of a State-wide system of higher education which in addition to the different divisions of the University also includes the State colleges and community colleges, pledges itself to work with these other institutions to the end that every holder of a New Jersey secondary school diploma may find that form of higher education which is best suited to his needs, abilities, and aspirations."

The intention here is clearly to lead the way in providing some form of higher public education for every citizen who can profit from it. The Board of Higher Education approved this aim in a statement issued on March 21st, "Action taken last Friday by the Rutgers Board of Governors was a response to the conviction we all share that higher education has an obligation to all the citizens of the State."

The Board of Governors went on to say in the resolution of March 14th, "The Board agrees to establish a new and pioneering program by September 1969, which initially will open college doors to educationally and economically disadvantaged students of the secondary schools in those communities where Rutgers has its primary locations and its most significant community obligations-- Newark, New Brunswick and Camden. The objective of this program is to make it possible for those graduates to achieve a true Rutgers degree. As this new program succeeds and as additional funds become available, the University together with the other institutions, will expand the program."