



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FOR THE STATE COLLEGES

80 PRATT STREET - HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103

AREA CODE 203 566-3040

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JOHN F. ROBINSON, VICE-CHAIRMAN
ERNEST A. JOHNSON, SECRETARY

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
J. EUGENE SMITH

RESOLUTION

concerning

The Naming of New Buildings at Central Connecticut State College

June 4, 1971

WHEREAS, the Charles E. Pratt Hall for the Physical and Biological Science Complex and the Robert C. Vance Industrial Arts Center for the Industrial Education Complex, formerly planned as separate projects have now been merged into one building, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees for the State Colleges hereby rescinds action taken on July 10, 1967, when it approved the names of Charles E. Pratt Hall for the Physical and Biological Sciences Complex, and the Robert C. Vance Industrial Arts Center for the Industrial Education Complex.

Therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees for the State Colleges approves the following names for buildings on the campus of Central Connecticut State College as listed below:

- New Science and Industrial Education Buildings - - - - - - - -Charles E. Pratt Hall
- New Men's Dormitory - - - - - - - -Robert C. Vance Hall

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INTERDEPARTMENT MAIL


DATE May 20, 1971

TO Dr. J. Eugene Smith, Executive Secretary	DEPARTMENT Board of Trustees for the State Colleges
FROM F. Don James, President	DEPARTMENT Central Connecticut State College
SUBJECT	

Enclosed is a resolution which I am requesting be presented to the Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees. As you will note, the Board on July 10, 1967, approved the naming of the Science and Industrial Education buildings. Since these are now combined into one building, I am requesting that the earlier resolution be rescinded, the name of Charles E. Pratt be given to this combined building, and the name Robert E. Vance be given to the new men's dormitory which is now in the final stages of construction and will be ready for occupancy this fall.

Enclosed also is biographical information about Charles E. Pratt and Robert E. Vance.

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F. Don James
PRESIDENT

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RECEIVED
MAY 24 1971
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE STATE COLLEGES

ROBERT CUMMINGS VANCE

February 21, 1894--November 4, 1959

Robert Cummings Vance, editor and publisher of the New Britain Herald, from 1951 to 1959, was a staunch supporter of Central Connecticut State College, both personally and in his editorial columns.

He served for several years as a member of President Herbert D. Welte's Citizen's Committee. Mr. Vance was instrumental in naming the college Elihu Burritt Library for "the learned blacksmith," and he was the principal speaker at the laying of the cornerstone in September 1958. In April 1959 the college's chapter of Kappa Delta Pi cited him for "Outstanding Achievement and Devotion to the Ideals of Education."

Born in New Britain, the second son of Robert J. Vance, the founder and first editor of the Herald, Robert C. was educated in local schools, Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, and at Yale University. His career at the New Haven institution was interrupted by World War I in which he served with distinction--first as an ambulance driver for the American Field Services in the French Army and then in the American Army when this country entered the war.

After being mustered out of service in 1920, he completed his studies at Yale, receiving his Ph. B in 1921.

He served as legislative reporter for the Herald at the State Capitol for twenty years. Upon the death of his elder brother, Johnstone Vance, he assumed the position of editor and publisher of the Herald and served in that capacity until his death.

Mr. Vance was a gregarious man, an enthusiastic man. He was a founder of the American Legion and a great advocate of the cause of veterans. The establishment of the Veteran's Hospital in Newington owed much to his campaigning for such an institution.

The modern plant of his newspaper at Herald Square was conceived and promoted by him. He belonged to many clubs and organizations including the American Society of Newspaper Editors and was known for his charities.

At his death he was eulogized by government officials and his fellow journalists. He was described as "a fine newspaperman of a newspaper family," "soldier, citizen, editor, publisher, and community leader," and "a great human being with a generous heart."

CHARLES E. PRATT

1877-1962

Professor of Science at Central Connecticut State College from 1913 until his retirement in 1946, Charles E. Pratt began his long career in education at the Campville rural school in the town of Harwinton, Connecticut, on October 24, 1898, for a six-week term at six dollars a week.

He then attended the New Haven State Normal School. After graduating from this institution, he taught grades VI and VII and acted as principal of a five-room elementary school in Branford, Connecticut.

From 1908 to 1913, he served as supervisor of rural schools in several Connecticut townships. At that time, teachers with only a high school diploma were employed. In order to improve the quality of their teaching, Mr. Pratt introduced many innovations in methods which not only benefited the beginners but were adopted by the more experienced teachers.

In 1913, Mr. Pratt came to the New Britain Normal School (now Central Connecticut State College) under President Marcus White. For the first five years he concentrated in the area of geography, but from 1918 to 1928 he covered the entire field of science as well as many other subjects.

In the formative years of Central he served in many extra

capacities besides teaching a wide spectrum of subjects. He served as chairman of the Assembly-Lecture Committee, bringing worthwhile entertainment to the campus, and for some time he was in charge of classroom and faculty scheduling.

During the time he was teaching he continued his own education, receiving his BS from Harvard in 1908 and his MA from Columbia in 1931.

From 1928 until he concluded his teaching career, Mr. Pratt devoted his time to science courses and the supervision of training teachers.

Mr. Pratt was a kindly, gentle man; a man of many enthusiasms who was vitally interested in his students and their careers. He was ever ready to step into the breach in any situation which would benefit the institution which he served with distinction for a lengthy career of thirty-three years.

In 1946 Dr. H. D. Welte, in endorsing Mr. Pratt's request for retirement, wrote to the Commissioner of Education:

Through the years Mr. Pratt has been loyal, faithful, industrious, and of sterling character. His influence upon students, teachers, and colleges has been deep and profound . . . It is my further recommendation that when new buildings are constructed on this campus that he be accorded the honor of having one named for him in recognition of his faithful service to the State of Connecticut.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE STATE COLLEGES

MAY 24 1971

RECEIVED

June 8, 1971

Dr. F. Don James, President
CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, Connecticut 06050

Dear Don:

Attached for your files is a copy of the resolution adopted by the Board on June 4 that authorizes the naming of the Science and Industrial Education Building and the new Men's Dormitory.

Sincerely,

W. F. Croft
Associate Executive Secretary

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RESOLUTION

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The Naming of New Buildings at Central Connecticut State College

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for the State Colleges approve the following names for buildings on the campus of Central Connecticut State College as listed below:

New Science and Industrial
Education Building

Charles E. Pratt Hall

New Men's Dormitory

Robert E. Vance Hall

The Board of Trustees for the State Colleges hereby rescinds action taken on July 10, 1967, when it approved the names of Charles E. Pratt Hall for the Physical and Biological Sciences Complex, and The Robert C. Vance Industrial Arts Center for the Industrial Education Complex. These two units have now been merged into one building.