




RESOLUTION
concerning
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
ETHNIC HISTORICAL ARCHIVES CENTER
AT
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

December 6, 1991

- WHEREAS, Southern Connecticut State University is committed to multi-cultural education and to the goal of understanding the contributions of all ethnic groups to the growth and development of American society, and
- WHEREAS, Southern Connecticut State University, as part of its mission, seeks to broaden the understanding of the contributions of ethnic groups beyond its campus, and
- WHEREAS, The Ethnic Heritage Center, based in New Haven, represents community groups from throughout Connecticut, and is dedicated to acquiring, recording, preserving and disseminating information about genealogical and historical documents of ethnic groups in the state in an academic setting, and
- WHEREAS, The collection of the Ethnic Heritage Center, known as the Ethnic Historical Archives, is dedicated to providing information documenting the struggles and triumphs of diverse groups with the goal of fostering learning experiences necessary to promote harmonious relationships between these groups, and
- WHEREAS, Both Southern Connecticut State University and the Ethnic Heritage Center have extensive and complimentary resources available to enhance the study of ethnic heritage, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for Connecticut State University authorizes Southern Connecticut State University to negotiate a lease with the Ethnic Heritage Center, to house the Ethnic Historical Archives on its campus in the Hilton C. Buley Library, such lease to be subject to Board of Trustees and other appropriate state approvals.

A Certified True Copy:


Dallas K. Beal
President



The Ethnic Heritage Center — A Brief Description

The Ethnic Heritage Center Inc. is comprised of five ethnic groups from the greater New Haven area which are dedicating their efforts to the acquisition, recording, storage and preservation of historical and genealogical documents. These groups, though diverse in origin, are working toward the common goal of making a collection of documents and other memorabilia to commemorate the contributions made to the "melting pot" of American Society by their forbears as well as by themselves.

An important objective of the Center is to organize these historical materials into a meaningful collection so that they will become available for study, research and interpretation by scholars and other interested persons. It seeks to establish an archive center at Southern Connecticut State University for these artifacts with information that will be preserved for future generations as well as for use in contemporary research.

According to the book, "Shaking Your Family Tree" by Dr. Ralph Crandall... "many Americans...are realizing that we live in a virtual historical vacuum. We simply have no idea about our family experience in America or overseas." The Center is striving to alter this situation by motivating people's interest in their families' experiences; and by doing this, it will salvage and store valuable historical data which would otherwise have been lost forever.

In addition to accumulating a vast array of historical facts, the Center will help organizations to manage and preserve their historical collections to prevent decay and deterioration. It will also provide a facility to display, exhibit and teach about the contents of the collection. It should become an educational center for ethnic history.

During a period in which Americans are seeking new pride in their heritages, the Center provides an opportunity for new understandings to develop between ethnic groups. By providing information documenting the struggles and triumphs of diverse groups, the Center will foster learning experiences necessary to promoting harmonious relationships between persons of diverse cultural backgrounds.

The Ethnic Heritage Center is an association comprised of the following organizations:

- Connecticut Afro-American Society
- Irish-American Historical Society
- Italian-American Historical Society
- Jewish Historical Society of New Haven
- Ukranian-American Historical Society

In addition, the following groups have expressed interest in joining the Ethnic Heritage Center:

- Chinese from Hong Kong and Taiwan
- Greek Hellenic Society
- Indian Group
- Korean from East Rock Institute
- Latino Youth Development Corporation
- Lithuanian Cultural Group
- Mexican Community Representative
- Native American
- Polish Community of St. Stanislaus
- Scandinavian
- Spanish Cultural Association
- Tibetan Cultural Group

The materials of these groups will be the basis for the Ethnic Historical Archives. Additional ethnic groups which are serious about the project are also invited to make their interest known to the Ethnic Heritage Center, Inc.

The Connecticut Humanities Council has awarded a grant to the Ethnic Heritage Center to hire a director, Jeanne R. Hickey, who has begun implementing plans for the Archive Center. In addition, Mrs. Hickey will continue to assist the five existing ethnic groups in developing humanities related programs to present to the public and to scholarly audiences. She will also encourage the participation of additional ethnic groups to join in the effort. It also hopes to find space in which to establish a public display area, a research and study area, a library and archival center for each the Ethnic Heritage Center.

Affiliation Understandings

In order to do this the Ethnic Heritage Center will need an office to establish its archive on the campus of Southern Connecticut State University. Once established the archive will serve as a resource to the Administration, Faculty, and the Student Body at Southern Connecticut State University in its effort to establish and advance a Multi-Cultural Educational Center on campus.

In order to function on the Southern Connecticut State University campus, the Ethnic Historical Archive will be provided with an office in the Hilton C. Buley Library at the cost of \$1 (one dollar) per year. The University will provide basic services to this office, including heat, electricity, and general maintenance. Members of the Center will have access to this office during the normal operating hours of Buley Library. The Ethnic Heritage Center will be responsible for paying for its own telephone, computer services, and office supplies.

By becoming a unit of the campus, the Ethnic Historical Archive will have access to general University facilities such as meeting rooms, exhibit areas, parking, and the library collection. It will also be active in the University's Multi-Cultural Center.

This affiliation will be reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees for Connecticut State University to determine if the Ethnic Heritage Archive continues to contribute to the University's mission. With board approval, if Southern Connecticut State University and the Ethnic Heritage Center determine that it is in their best interest, this affiliation and housing of the Ethnic Heritage Archive can be extended for one year or terminated within 90 days of such determination. If the two parties opt to terminate their relationship, all materials of the Ethnic Heritage Archive shall continue to be property of the Ethnic Heritage Center.