

Dr. Willis F. Stanage

Willis F. Stanage, a Yankton pediatrician and graduate of Yankton College was officially appointed the 14th president of Yankton College, succeeding Peterson. After repaying its creditors, Yankton College had approximately \$1 million left. Alumni rejected moving school records to other schools, like Doane College. Instead, in 1989 the college office moved student records and college memorabilia to the basement of the old JC Penney building in downtown Yankton. Staff worked tirelessly to restore the student institution. *The College Without Walls* concept was approved as a new approach to an old tradition - to offer quality liberal arts education in such areas as theology, drama, music and athletics. Emphasis was also placed on the alumni; all-class reunions were held to keep them involved. Endowments were created to provide scholarships to deserving students.

In 1997, the Board of Trustees voted to contribute \$336,000 towards the building of a multi-million-dollar high school within a common-use facility. The proposition would create a mini-theater named for Yankton College that would be used for lectures and programs and an office space for the college on a 30-year lease. The college chose to enter the agreement because it offered the opportunity of a continuing association with education and greater visibility in the community. The school was ready to be led into the 21st century!