

*W. A. (Bing) LeCroy*

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State Superintendent of Education  
State Department of Education  
Montgomery, Alabama

The Alabama State Board of Education, at its meeting on February 13, 1962, at Montgomery, Alabama, adopted the following resolution on motion of State Superintendent W. A. LeCroy; motion seconded by Mr. E. W. Skidmore, and unanimously carried:

WHEREAS, Dr. Joseph F. Drake has given 35 years of loyal, devoted, and efficient service to the youth of Alabama as President of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College; and

WHEREAS, under his administration, the College has grown from a small unaccredited junior college to an outstanding accredited institution of higher learning with membership in many national associations; and

WHEREAS, his physical condition as well as the welfare of the College require that he be relieved of his duties as President as soon as possible:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the State Board of Education that the Board congratulate President Drake on the outstanding service he has rendered as President of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College and that he be relieved of the duties of President as of February 28, 1962, but that he be given a leave-of-absence with pay and be retained as Consultant subject to the call of the President and State Board of Education until the expiration of the present school year on June 30, 1962, and that he be paid the same monthly salary as he is now receiving as President; and *(#12,000 Per Year)*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Board express its appreciation to President Drake for his contributions to public education and wish for him a rapid and complete recovery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a copy of this resolution be spread on the minutes of this Board and that a copy be sent to the press and to President Drake.

RELEASE - 2/15/62

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ACCREDITATION REPORT ON ALABAMA STATE AND  
ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGES  
TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AT ITS MEETING FEBRUARY 13, 1962

by

W. A. (Bing) LeCroy  
State Superintendent of Education

A study was initiated in 1952 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to re-examine the method of setting up a separate approved list of Negro colleges and universities in the South.

As a result of this study, the Association, at its business meeting in 1956, approved a plan for bringing qualified institutions for Negroes into full membership in the Association. Qualified Negro institutions were to be admitted to full membership beginning in December, 1957. Those institutions not eligible for full membership, but meeting certain standards, would be continued on a separate approved list until December, 1961. After December, 1961, no separate approved list of Negro institutions would be prepared.

During this four-year period, 1957 to 1961, Alabama State College, Montgomery, Alabama, and Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College, Normal, Alabama, were continued on the approved list of colleges and universities. During that four-year period neither of them was admitted to the list of Member Universities and Colleges of the Association.

The action of the Association in 1961, therefore, did not imply that the quality of work at these two institutions was inferior at that time to what it had been in recent years. It simply points out the fact that since these institutions are not now and have never been eligible for full membership in the Association, their names do not appear on the roster of member institutions.