



Dr. Fred W. Turner

Fred Turner, director of instructional services and the number two official in the Florida Department of Education, was selected in September 1965 to be the College's first president.

Fred was an easy choice for Advisory Committee member John Pigott. "We felt with his experience in education, that he would be the ideal choice for president at TJC."

As the College's founding president, Fred was responsible for planning and building the new college from the ground up—writing the curricula and course descriptions, hiring faculty and staff, and providing direction for the architect, among numerous other responsibilities.

Students were Fred's highest priority. He was often directly involved in the advisement and registration process and frequently sought out student views on matters concerning the College.

"I've never seen a man who works better with people—people of all kinds. And he gets the job done—easily, quietly, no fanfare. He just gets it done," State School Superintendent Tom Bailey noted in the Tallahassee Democrat when Fred's selection was announced.

After setting up the general education transfer program, Fred turned his attention to establishing high-quality programs in the occupational area. Throughout his 13 years as president, he placed great emphasis on maintaining high academic standards, obtaining top-quality faculty and support personnel, keeping student costs low, developing only those programs for which there is community need, and staying within the often-limited financial resources.

Fred served until 1979, but returned as interim president for the 1982-83 academic year. He retired in 1983 and passed away in 1987.