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Press Release

Gallaudet's 1986 Strategic Plan gives background to expose Fernandes' red herring issue

On Tuesday, April 15, 1986, then Gallaudet President Jerry C. Lee appeared before a Congressional subcommittee and submitted Gallaudet's 1986 Strategic Plan into the record.

Here is a link to download Gallaudet's 1986 Strategic Plan:

http://saveourdeafschools.org/gallaudet_college_1986_strategic_plan.pdf

Under the section titled "New Constituents" (PDF page 2), the strategic plan clearly states:

QUOTE (emphasis added):

Gallaudet's top priority is to serve new constituencies and to increase the number served through current programs.

To expand its services, the College will enroll students from segments of the hearing impaired population on whom it has not traditionally focused, including students with less than profound hearing losses.

UNQUOTE

Not only did the 1986 Strategic Plan make it a top priority to reach out to non-traditional students, but Dr. Lee's letter to the community (below) shows that one of the reasons for changing to university status in the Fall of 1986 was to reflect this increased emphasis.

This was a continuation of policies implemented during the [expansion era](#) at Gallaudet which started during the [Elstad administration](#) in the 1950's and which were spurred in part by the [Gallagher Report of 1949](#)—an expansion which resulted in massive new

numbers of non-profoundly deaf students enrolling in Gallaudet, on a renovated campus with multiple new buildings and an expanded faculty. Many of these new students grew up using new-style miniaturized hearing aids and there had been much blue-sky talk about how the new technology was going to "cure" deafness, just as there is much misguided speculation today involving exaggerated claims of the effectiveness of cochlear implants.

These documents all show the obvious, which is that there is not now, nor has there been in the past any crisis of a need for new leadership at Gallaudet in the area of recruiting new students from a non-traditional base, and that *the whole issue was a red herring introduced by Jane Fernandes to create an artificial issue to use as a pretext to prop up her very weak candidacy in the attempt to propel herself into the presidency at Gallaudet.*

Would anyone take someone seriously if a person with a very weak track record ran for President of the United States sometime after the massive influx of immigrants from Europe between 1880 and 1924 and declared: "The United States needs to open its doors to immigrants and become inclusive....Therefore, I am introducing legislation to create an 'Inclusive United States of America'....." —Of course not, but nevertheless, such type of scenario has occurred in relation to Gallaudet, and the US media has utterly failed in its duty to do background research in order to understand why Jane Fernandes was incompetent as Dean of Pre-college Programs (the Clerc Center) and later Provost, and why a Fernandes candidacy was a danger to the institutional health of Gallaudet and inimical to progress in deaf education in general.

[End commentary]

Letter to Gallaudet community by President Jerry C. Lee, Spring 1986

Dear Friends:

Over the past two years, the Gallaudet College community has been deeply involved in a major planning program designed to help us successfully meet new challenges posed by our changing society. In charting our future course, we are building on the strong foundation of previous planning efforts and projecting Edward Miner Gallaudet's vision of "comprehensive" institution into today's and tomorrow's world.

That vision continues to serve as the cornerstone of our mission. In our new *Statement of Mission and Goals*, "comprehensiveness" takes on increasing significance as we

seek to serve broader segments of the hearing impaired community in new and creative ways. Our basic goals are to provide more services to more people in more locations and to do so in an effective and resource-efficient way.

One of our highest priorities this academic year--and one which underlies our new *Statement*--is to develop and submit new legislation designed to confer university status upon Gallaudet. Our overall plan, therefore, reflects and supports our expectation that Gallaudet will achieve full university status, both in scope and name, in the near future.

Gallaudet College has a long and distinguished history, characterized by the significant, positive impact it has had on the quality of life of deaf persons. As we move forward with our mission, and as we continue service as the flagship educational institution for deaf people in our nation and around the world, we will use this plan to chart our future course.

Our comprehensive planning process involved 12 developmental phases, carried out over a two-year period, which resulted in our new *Statement*. Our planning does not stop there, however. It is an ongoing process, with individual units of the College continuing to develop their own programs in support of the general plan. Those plans and overall goals and activities will be regularly reviewed and revised.

We are grateful to all those who participated in the creation of this plan; with your continued commitment and support, the plan will serve as a dynamic force in the fulfillment of our mission. Please join with us as we set forth on our newly-chartered course.

(Signed)
Jerry C. Lee
President

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