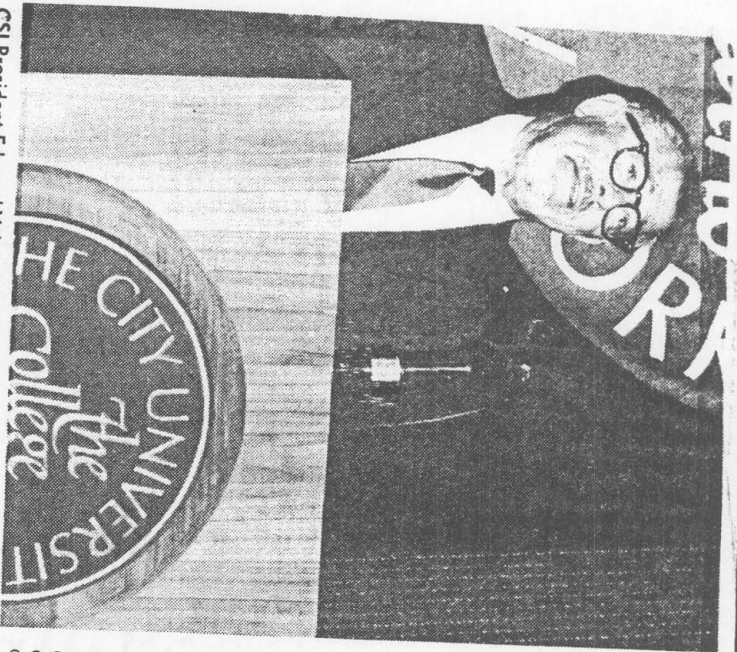


# Volpe: CSI training our future



CSI President Edmund Volpe delivers his address.

By BETH JACKENDOFF  
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

In describing the College of Staten Island yesterday, President Dr. Edmund L. Volpe painted a picture of an institution training the professionals of tomorrow while meeting some of today's most important issues — from AIDS to racism — head-on.

"I analyze the state of our college in 1987 by reaffirming our mission as a comprehensive college," he said at the outset of his hour-long state-of-the-college address, delivered on the school's Sunnyside campus before some 250 professors and administrators.

Volpe described new and expanding programs at the college that are preparing tomorrow's teachers, computer scientists, engineers and international business leaders. But he also stressed the college's obligation to inform students about subjects of current concern such as AIDS and drug abuse.

Prominent in Volpe's speech

was talk of the college's new campus. A symbol of the school's growth and vitality, it will open in 1992 on the grounds of the former Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook.

"We now have a big sign at Willowbrook that reads, 'This is the site of the future College of Staten Island campus,'" said Volpe. "Just to stand there and contemplate the future is a privilege and a pleasure."

Working with the Institute for Basic Research, which is already located at the Willowbrook site, and a day-care center for the developmentally disabled, CSI will have "the opportunity to lead nationally to produce professionals who work with the mentally retarded population," said Volpe.

CSI's international programs are also growing. Exchange programs with Israel and Greece have been added to already successful ventures based in Italy and China. Staff members of the new Center for Population and

Immigration Studies have already begun making contacts for doing research in their field. And students interested in international business will be able to intern with multi-national companies, study abroad and learn foreign languages through intensive programs.

With expanded programs in computer science, engineering, nursing and a new Center for Environmental Sciences, Volpe said CSI is continuing its commitment to training scientists, technicians and health professionals. But he expressed his hope for a renewed commitment to the liberal arts as well.

"For the past two decades in American higher education, career-oriented education has been in ascendance," he said. "But I suspect the time is coming when students will once again shift to major in the liberal arts."

Volpe lauded several CSI programs designed to interest high-school students in higher education. For example, he said, the

Science and Technology Entry Program has given minority high-school students a head start in science with remedial summer classes, counseling and even a stipend for participating. "When they come to college, it's too late," he said.

On affirmative action, Volpe said: "Our record is very poor. We must change it, and we will change it." He added that he will not hire new faculty until "everything has been done to honor our responsibility to affirmative action."

Finally, Volpe said student apathy is one of the biggest problems on campus. Less than 3 percent voted on a recent student-body referendum. Volpe urged the faculty to take an interest in extracurricular clubs and activities as a way to get the students to respond. "The students respect our faculty," said Volpe. "If you encourage them to participate, I think they will respond."

"Our responsibilities," he added, "go beyond the classroom."