Academic excellence is goal of Towson State U

Towson State Univ., Md.'s second largest public institution for higher education, has an enrollment of more than 13,000 full- and part-time undergraduates.

This year, the university increased its minority enrollment slightly — from 11.5 percent full-time undergraduates in 1977 to 11.9 percent in 1978. During the same period, state-wide black enrollment in public colleges and universities decreased by 7.5 percent.

Elaine Solez, affirmative action officer at the university, said that Towson will reach its 1980 goal of 14 to 16 percent minority enrollment if the current trend at the university continues. Towson State initiated its desegregation plans in 1974 when minority enrollment was just over 7 percent.

In addition to actively recruiting minority students, Towson has launched several programs to attract academically superior students to the university.

The Presidential Fellows Scholarship program, which is limited to students with combined Scholastic Aptitude Test scores of at least 1300 and a 3.5 grade point average, was initiated last year.

Presidential Fellows, who are often sponsored by Baltimore-area businesses and corporations, receive full tuition and fees for one year and must maintain a 3.5 average each successive year to continue to qualify for the merit scholarship. Special programs in advanced studies for these highly motivated students are also underway.

Annette Flower, dean of humanistic, social and managerial studies, said the university "not only tries to attract high ability students, but has programs that will challenge them and encourage them to stay at Towson State."

The university has also organized special retention programs in developmental and remedial education to help students upgrade their educational skills and improve their chances of succeeding in college-level work. Tutoring is available to every student in reading, grammar and composition, as well as in other academic subjects.

The Study Skills Center and the Reading and Learning Labs offer intensive training in basic skills and all departments on campus provide individual tutoring.

In addition, Towson State has developed orientation programs to meet the academic and adjustment needs of a variety of students.

A special course for high-achieving students was made available this fall, under the direction of Donald Squires, director of orientation and Dean Flower.

Towson State Univ. has taken the initiative in the Md. Statewide Plan for Post - secondary Education, adopted in July, 1978, through voluntary desegregation, minority recruitment, special programs and scholarships for superior students and innovative remedial education.

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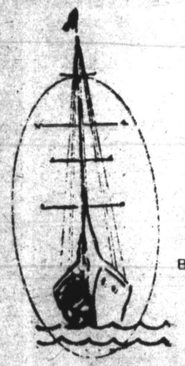

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