

**DeWayne Rakes**  
**July 1976 – June 1986**

It might be easier to list the responsibilities DeWayne Rakes did *not* have at Linn Technical College. He was the college's first basketball coach and housing director. In 1969, he was named Dean of Students, and to his earlier responsibilities were added recruiting, job placement and financial aid.

Finally, in 1976, he was put in charge of the college, taking the title of President in 1977. That's when the financial responsibilities fell firmly on his shoulders. Faced with a large debt, he immediately set to work making budget cuts and delivering the bad news that there would be no pay raises that year.

"People were dedicated enough to stay, and I will always be grateful to them for that," he said. That dedication remains his fondest memory of Linn Tech.

The college took on a whole new look during Rakes' tenure. With the acquisition of 160 acres east of Linn, Rakes and his staff began planning new buildings and new programs, laying the groundwork for more growth.

"We went from a collection of tin buildings to a dream of having a new campus," he said.

That growth enabled the college to offer programs to attract substantially more female students. Customized training programs for industry also were instrumental in attracting several employers to the Linn area.

Rakes said the new campus was a dream that he never completed before he left the college in 1986. He eventually went into the insurance business in Jefferson City.

He added that the dream probably never will be completed – that's the nature of the changing demands of technical education.

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