

**Ralph “Duke” Livingston**  
**July 1962 – June 1968; July 1969 – June 1976**

Linn Superintendent Thurman Willett was so sure that Ralph Livingston was suited to be the first director of Linn Technical College that he had Livingston’s name printed on the college letterhead even before he accepted the job.

Fortunately, the letterhead was good for a number of years, because Livingston was persuaded to leave his job as a professor at Pittsburg State University in Kansas for the tiny new school in Linn in 1962.

Prior to his passing in 2005, Livingston stated that although his title was director he was really a “jack of all trades.” With only a few dozen students and a handful of teachers, there wasn’t much to administer, he said. He taught drafting, recruited students and even did his own typing in the early days.

Under Livingston, the school day was doubled to six hours by adding communications, math and other general courses to the curriculum to round out the education.

According to Livingston the main challenge was always money. For that reason, Livingston spent much his time at area high schools talking to counselors and students.

Through personal recruiting and touring the classroom buildings each day, the gregarious Livingston knew the students well. “They’d see me somewhere on campus practically every day.”

After stepping down as director in 1976, Livingston taught classes and sponsored the yearbook. He retired in 1985 and stayed in Linn until his death in 2005.

Livingston considered his tenure at Linn Tech to be the highlight of his career.

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