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Percentage Of Blacks At CSTCC Drops As More Whites Enroll

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The Tennessee Higher Education Commission reported today that the percentage of blacks in the student and administrative populations of Chattanooga State Technical Community College declined last year.

The report said the percentage of black students at the school was 17.2 percent in 1977 and 16.4 percent in 1978, although the actual number of black students increased from 651 to 693.

In the school administration, the percentage of blacks fell from 25 percent to 20 percent.

The percentage of black faculty members remained the same, 9.9 percent, while

blacks in the professional category rose from 4 to 11.5 percent.

CSTCC president Charles Branch attributed to decline in the black student percentage to a record influx of white high school graduates over the past few years.

"It looks like we're getting more graduates these days from predominantly white high schools in the area," he said. "Prior to our changeover from a technical school to a community college, we got very few students from those schools."

He said there would be no changes in the school's affirmative action program as

a result of the report, adding, "In general, I'd say we've been fairly successful at Chattanooga State in meeting the goals of our affirmative action plan, but that doesn't mean we intend to slow down our efforts."

The THEC report recommended that funding for desegregation activities this year be increased by 15 percent over last year's recommendation.

The report concluded that Tennessee's higher education institutions have made "substantial progress" toward desegregation in graduate student enrollment and said black student retention rates have improved.

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