Guide to the Papers of

Wright L. Lassiter Jr

Prepared by Asia K. Bender, 2022

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**Tuskegee University**

**Archives**

**Tuskegee, AL 36088**

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**Collection Summary**

**Creator:** Lassiter Jr, Wright L. (1934-2019)

**Title:** Papers of Wright L. Lassiter Jr

**Dates:** 1934-2019

**Quantity:** 6.0 cubic feet

**Identification:**

**Abstract:** William L. Lassiter Jr served as Director of Auxiliary Enterprises, Director of the College Business Management Internship Program, and Assistant Professor of Business Administration, among other positions, at Tuskegee Institute. Additionally, he held leadership roles at Hampton University and Morgan State University. He became the first African American to become president of a State University in the New York school system.

**Contact Information:** Tuskegee University National Center of Bioethics, Archives and Museums

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**Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation**

Papers of Wright L. Lassiter Jr (1934-2019)

**Acquisition Information**

No information available

**Processing Information**

The papers were received for processing in various containers, with the documents in folders prepared. From their arrangement in the containers, the folders were not arranged any particular order. Many of the folders were not labeled, or were mislabeled in reference to their actual contents.

The processors decided to separate the folders into series according to subject matter that would be arranged alphabetically within each series.

In processing the collection, original folders were replaced with acid-free folders. Folders were labeled, either following the original labeling, or in the case of missing or incorrect labels were assigned folder titles. All metal fasteners were removed.

**Index Terms**

The papers are indexed under the following headings in the Tuskegee University Library’s online catalog. Researchers seeking materials about related subjects, persons, organizations or places should search the catalog using these headings.

**Subjects:**

Alcorn State University Alumni

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity member

Daniel T. William, University Archivist – Tuskegee University

Professor of Business Administration, Tuskegee Institute

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity member

**Persons:**

c, Ph.D.

**Biography**

William L. Lassiter Jr. was born on March 21, 1934, to Rev. Dr. William L. Lassiter Sr and Mrs. Ethel Franklin Lassiter in Vicksburg, Mississippi. He graduated from Bowman High School in Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1951 with honors and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education from Alcorn State University in 1955 with high honors (Magna Cum Laude). In 1962, he graduated from Indiana University’s Graduate School of Business with his Master of Business Administration degree in Management. Lassiter continued his education by receiving a  Doctor of Education degree with a concentration in College and University Administration from Auburn University in 1975. Dr. Lassiter’s Doctoral Dissertation was *A Historical Review and First Year Application of the National Association of College and University Business Officers College Planning Cycle by Tuskegee Institute.* Furthermore, he earned his Doctor of Divinity degree in religious education in 1980 from the Neotarian College of Philosophy, where he became an Ordained Baptist Minister.

Dr. Lassiter’s comprehensive work experience includes being an Instructor of Business Education and Interim Chairman in the Department of Business Education at Alcorn University in 1955. In addition, he held multiple positions throughout the years at Tuskegee Institute, from Senior Accountant (1958-1961), Director of the College Business Management Internship Program (1962-1970), Assistant Professor of Business Administration (1962-1975), Director of Auxiliary Enterprises (1962-1976), and Acting Chairperson for the Department of Business (1972-1973). Additionally, he worked at Morgan State University as a Professor of Business Administration for their Graduate School of Business and Management (1976-1980) and as Vice President for Finance and Management (1976-1980).

Dr. Lassiter served as President of Schenectady County Community College(1980-1983). He was the first African American named president of a college in the State University of New York System. Then, Dr. Lassiter became President of Bishop College in Dallas, Texas, from 1983 to 1986. Additionally, he served as President of El Centro College in Dallas, Texas (1986-2007). In 2007, Dr. Lassiter became the first African American appointed Chancellor of Dallas County Community College District.

Dr. William L. Lassiter Jr was active in many organizations and societies. He was a lifelong member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Sigma Pi Phi “The Boule.” In 2002, President George W. Bush was nominated to serve as National Advisory Council to the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In 2014, Dr. Lassiter retired but still served as a faculty member at Dallas Baptist University Dallas School. In addition, he continued his duties as Interim Pastor for St. John Missionary Baptist Church and taught at Concord Baptist Church.

Unfortunately, Dr. William L. Lassiter Jr died on July 1, 2019, at 85, in Dallas, Texas.

**Scope and Contents**

The papers of William L. Lassiter Jr. consist of documents spanning 1980-1997 and include research articles and data, personal correspondence, and addresses from Dr. Lassiter during his career. Press releases and newspaper articles highlighted Dr. Lassiter's accomplishments in the leadership positions he held in various colleges. Additionally, personal correspondence between former Tuskegee University’s Director of Professional Libraries and University Archivist Dr. Daniel T. Williams. It also includes weekly publications and college records focusing on various college activities.

**Arrangement**

The papers are arranged into one series.

**Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access**

There are no restrictions on access to these papers.

**Restrictions on Use**

Researchers are responsible for addressing copyright issues on materials not in the public domain.

**Inventory**

**Box Folder**

1 1 Intercom Publication: Volume 16 Number 7 and Volume 16 Number 8

1 2 College Reports and Publications – 1995

1 3 St. John Missionary Baptist Church Records – 1995-1996

1 4 Newspaper Clippings on Tuskegee Syphilis Project of 1932 – May 1997

1 5 Dallas County Community College District Publications – 1996-1997

1 6 El Centro College Records – 1987

1 7 Bishop College Records – 1984

1 8 Bishop College’s For Your Information: Weekly Publications – July 1983-

May 1984

1 9 Addresses by Dr. Wright Lassiter Jr – 1983-1984

1 10 Newspaper Articles on Bishop College and Dr. Lassiter – 1984

1 11 News Releases about Dr. Wright Lassiter – 1984

1 12 Dr. Lassiter’s time at Schenectady County Community College – 1980-1982

1 13 George Washington Carver Memorial Sermon – January 17, 1982

1 14 Curriculum Vita – Dr. Wright L. Lassiter Jr – February 1983

1 15 News Clippings on Schenectady County Community College

1 16 The Inauguration of Dr. Lassiter as President of Bishop College – 1984

1 17 Documents on El Centro College – 1986-1987

1 18 From the Chapel Pulpit: Five Tuskegee Institute Sermons Delivered by Dr.

Lassiter – 1982-1986

1 19 News Articles on Dr. Lassiter Jr leaving Bishop College