

June 6, 1945

Captain F. A. Sams
Department of Education
State Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia

My Dear Sam:

I am going to write you a few lines about our situation, and after you have read the attached page, I wonder if you could write me a letter appreciating the effort we are making to care for so many returned veterans. If you can agree with any of the statements as quoted from recent newspaper clippings, copies of which are attached, please write me at once.

Doctor Sanford said if I could get a statement from someone like you, indicating we would have many returned veterans, it would facilitate his promoting the immediacy of our building program. We are anxious to enlarge our facilities, even before the coming fall, as the veterans are coming to us at a very rapid rate, and only one of those returned now belongs to the more than 5,000 who left us for the armed forces.

Cordially yours,

GEORGE M. SPARKS,
Director

GMS:h

PR

FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR ARNALL AS REPORTED IN THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION,
SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1945:

"Impressed with the popularity of the Evening School, in which the students pay for their education and the State pays practically nothing, the Solons predicted the student body would increase from the normal 3,000 to 10,000 in the post-war period. At least 5,000 veterans will want to register at this institution and secure the benefits under the G. I. Bill of Rights.

"If the State of Georgia can arrange to spend \$400,000 to adequately house this institution, it will be the means of keeping in Georgia at least \$3,000,000 a year under the G. I. Bill of Rights, which will otherwise go to Evening Colleges in other large cities in the nation. The need for this building is urgent and immediate."

FROM THE ATLANTA JOURNAL OF APRIL 8:

"The need for this Evening College building is urgent and immediate. If a suitable building can be erected, there will be for the next seven years after the termination of the war an annual enrollment of 10,000. The present building is over-crowded, and one wing presents a definite fire hazard. If the State of Georgia can arrange to spend \$400,000 adequately to house the Georgia Evening College, it will be the means of keeping in this state at least \$3,000,000 a year under the G. I. Bill of Rights.

FROM AN EDITORIAL BY JOHN PASCHAL IN THE ATLANTA JOURNAL OF APRIL 10:

"The Committee says the college needs a \$400,000 building to replace the present structure, one wing of which is described as a definite fire hazard. The Committee finds that a new building will be the means of keeping in this state at least \$3,000,000 a year under the G. I. Bill of Rights which provides financial assistance for veterans wishing to attend college after the war. The school's enrollment figures are an interesting commentary on the need it serves. Before Pearl Harbor, the enrollment was 2,961. Now, after more than three years of war, the total

enrollment is above 2,500, of whom only 165 are men. Since the school is situated in Atlanta, which affords the state's greatest opportunities for employment, it is reasonable to expect an enrollment of 5,000 or more when the veterans return. Because of the demand for its services, space in the old hospital building now in use is at such a premium that notices of beginning terms are not sent to newspapers, and no catalog has been printed since 1942.

"A \$400,000 building, easily accessible to those working in Atlanta, would assure us as good a return on the money as any investment we could make in our human resources."