6-24-1970

Collins speaks before girls state delegates

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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MISSOULA--

Girls State delegates quickly become "enlightened to civic responsibility," said University of Montana Thomas J. Collins, director of the Foundation and UM Public Services, as he addressed delegates to the 23rd Annual Montana Girls State Convention Wednesday (June 24) in the University Center Ballroom.

Each generation has improved on previous generations, said Collins. Delegations such as Girls State and educational institutions such as UM help to produce qualified U.S. citizens, he continued.

"The true measure for our success," said Collins, "is the kind of product we turn out--what our UM graduates contribute to mankind."

Collins told the Girls Staters of the University of Montana's growth during the past few years and of its potential growth in the form of a new library, which will be started this fall.

"Since 1904, when the Rhodes Scholarship was first established in England," Collins said, "UM has produced more Rhodes Scholars than any other educational system west of the Mississippi." UM now ranks 30th out of 2,500 U.S. institutions of higher learning for Rhode Scholar recipients, he said.

Collins concluded by inviting the Girls Staters to UM to further their education. "We hope many of you here today will be famous alums from the University of Montana," he said.

Girls Staters voted into state offices will be sworn in at 9:45 a.m. Thursday (June 25). The Hon. Wesley Castles of Helena, Associate Justice of the State Supreme Court, will give the delegates their oath of office.
James P. Lucas, Miles City, speaker of the State House of Representatives, will instruct the delegates in inauguration procedures at 10:45 a.m. and organize the Girls State House and Senate.

Other activities scheduled for June 25 for Girls Staters include a tour of the UM campus at 3 p.m.

Sgt. Martin Dahl, Helena, of the Montana Highway Patrol, will speak before the delegates at 7 p.m.