



NEWS

FROM **WATERLOO LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY**

WATERLOO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE — WATERLOO LUTHERAN SEMINARY

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Education 1
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LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION IS BEST FOR FAST-CHANGING

WORLD, SAYS DR. WALTER F. KOERBER

A liberal arts education, with studies demanding depth and excellence, is the best preparation for the maze of the fast-changing world, according to Dr. Walter F. Koerber, director of the youth branch of the Department of Education.

Speaking Saturday at the annual alumni dinner of Waterloo Lutheran University, Dr. Koerber said: "The university has to accept two commitments to its students -- namely, the development of a persistent sense of purpose and the development of the readiness to accept change in all its implications."

If the future is going to be so demanding of university youth, Dr. Koerber said, the university will play an important role in the defining of values and goals. In practical terms, the university should be part of the community, interact with it, and give leadership to it.

He added: "I am suggesting that departments of psychology and sociology would increase in value to the university and to the students to the extent that they infiltrate the community by means of action research.

"It would seem reasonable that the major role of tomorrow's university is still to be accepted and developed, namely, to offer to the general public a large variety of opportunities for self-improvement."

Dr. Koerber warned that a university must mould for itself a good public image. "It would be better for the long-range image of this university if prospective

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boys and girls and parents learned from those who have been here that this is a place where you can continue to learn, even if the numerical symbols of your examinations results are not so flattering. The importance lies in the end-product and in the integrity of the process and mercifully much less in the initial conditions of admission. If these latter get disproportionate in importance, we're headed for image trouble."

He congratulated Waterloo Lutheran University for firmly interpreting its role as one among eighteen institutions of higher learning in Ontario, to continue under private -- in this case church -- sponsorship.

He added: "I do believe that the province should give generous financial encouragement to those programmes which produce professional sociologists, psychologists and social workers. I must emphasize that it is good to have the responsibility and freedom to develop the liberal arts emphasis in such a way that the whole university complex takes full advantage of the opportunity, unobtrusively but surely, to associate coherent spiritual values with all that is being taught and learned."

Dr. Koerber was named WUC Alumnus of the Year for 1964 by the university. Entering Waterloo College in 1927, he graduated with the degree of bachelor of arts in 1930. His post-graduate work was done at the University of Toronto, where he received his bachelor's degree in education in 1934 and his doctorate in education in 1947.

Before his appointment last July as director of the newly-formed youth branch, Dr. Koerber had made a special six-month study of all the agencies and services related to youth in Ontario. He was previously inspector of public schools, Scarborough.