

**Dr. Steven Breckon**  
**July 1986 – September 1990**

When Dr. Steven Breckon came to Linn Tech in 1986 as president, the college was at a crossroads. It was poised for either expansion or extinction.

Newly acquired land east of Linn gave the college lots of room to grow. But, enrollment was down, and the budget was in the red. The board discussed whether it was possible to keep the college running.

“I said, let’s go out and raise the flag,” recalled Breckon, who had been a public school superintendent in Bushnell, Illinois.

So, he became “head cheerleader” over an enlarged squad of college recruiters. The intensified recruiting effort boosted enrollment, which helped improve the financial picture. At the same time, partnerships with business resulted in new programs and active lobbying in the state Legislature increased support.

Stabilizing the college’s finances set the stage for construction on the new campus east of Linn. During Breckon’s tenure, four buildings were built and money was acquired for the fifth.

One of his favorite memories about Linn Tech was the dedication of the new auto mechanics building, when a representative of Chrysler Corporation lauded the new facility as the best west of the Mississippi River.

Breckon left Linn Tech in 1990 and joined the Sam’s Division of Wal-Mart Corp. in a management training capacity. Later, he returned to his home state of Illinois and became superintendent of public schools in LaHarpe and later in Hamilton. Breckon is retired and resides in Illinois.

He said he left Linn Tech with a firm belief that every state should have such a college – a purely technical college. “The day is here. It’s not a coming day. The day is here,” he said.

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