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## Introduction.

Michigan State College was founded in 1855 as a result of action of Congressman Justin S. Morrill and a group of forward-looking men of the times who prepared the legislation and ably supported its approval by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. It was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862. The action was financed by money raised through the sale of federal land, hence the name Land Grant College System.

The object of this program was to bring education and training to the field of agriculture and the Mechanical arts, so that the country would be better able to apply the principles of education to the needs of the common man. The development of scientific research dealing with all phases of human living and endeavor was encouraged. The recognition of the value of truth was an important part of this understanding. As the college developed, its student body and faculty grew in both size and quality and it became one of the leading educational institutions of the country. From the beginning it retained its interest in service to the public.

Michigan State College also continued to emphasize EXCELLENCE in all things, and that determination led to innovative programs in education and to new advances in agriculture, medical science, atomic research and other fields. Both as a small college and as a great university, Michigan State provided an ideal location for the development of one of the leading chapters of the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi.