

## **Midstate College**

**Est. 1888**

Many people would be surprised to learn that Midstate College has a long history in the Peoria area, especially if they're basing their knowledge of the institution on the beautiful, new facility on Northmoor Road.

The college first began as a commercial school in 1857. A similar school opened in 1865 and these two merged in 1868. The school was purchased by G.W. Brown in 1888 and aptly named Brown's Business College of Commerce. The school operated as Brown's Business College until 1960, when new owners A.R. Beard, Don Beard, and Arline H. Bunch changed its name to Midstate College of Commerce. After the Bunch family assumed ownership in 1965, they shortened the name to Midstate College which has remained without change for the last four decades.

As Peorians have seen with their own eyes, the facility has grown along with its curricula. Today, the college offers a four-year degree in a variety of areas. In 2002, the Arline H. Bunch Business Center opened which now houses the Business Administration Department. A leader in business education, Midstate College has a long, continuous history of advancing knowledge and improving the business climate in the greater Peoria area.

Congratulations to Midstate College on becoming a Peoria Historical Society Centenarian organization.