Leon Billingsly – MS 54, deceased November 27, 1978

MSSC president dead at age 53

JOPLIN (AP) - Leon Billingsly, president of Missouri Southern State College, died suddenly at his Joplin home Saturday afternoon of an apparent heart attack. He was 53.

Billingsly, a native of Christian County, was active in Joplin civic affairs and last year was named the town’s outstanding citizen by the local chamber of commerce.

Before becoming Missouri Southern's first president in 1964, Billingsly was superintendent of schools in Golden City and Pleasant Hill, Mo.; director of laboratory schools at Kansas State College in Pittsburg; dean at Missouri Southern's predecessor, Joplin Junior College; and president of Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek, Mich.

[Classnote, December 21, 1978]

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Missouri Southern College head dies

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1/27/78