

its role to that of an urban university, a suggestion which was made by the Court in its ruling on merger. Many at the school wish to retain its land-grant function and fear that the status of an urban university will lessen this historical function. If further court cases or reviews are initiated, this question probably will be a central concern. The possibility of court review exists, for on December 30, 1980, Avon Williams and other NAACP Legal Defense Fund attorneys filed a motion for further relief in the Geier vs. Alexander case which led to the merger and which also resulted in an approval of the statewide plan. The suit charges that progress in statewide desegregation has been largely non-existent, and it calls for extension of the funding of Tennessee State University at the level it had prior to merger, on the grounds that it will take longer than two years to achieve the objectives of the merger.

Response to the merger by the city of Nashville continues to be mixed. Some feel that the city has not been as supportive as it could be. Some believe that the media exacerbate some of the school's difficulties. Those interviewed during the site visit agree that Nashville must believe in and support Tennessee State University as its state university. Others, however, believe that relationships with the community now reflect an understanding of the university's role in the city, even though progress on continuing education programs and services for the community has not been as rapid as hoped, except in the field of teacher education. On the positive side, activities such as increased community support for the athletic program and the adoption of the university by "Leadership Nashville" as its 1980-81 project, suggest that the community is becoming more willing to support the merger.