OPENING DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY

WESTERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ANNUAL REPORT 2012
Compliments of Dr. Jim W. Burnett, President
TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 1:  President’s Message
PAGE 2:  2011 Financial Statement
PAGE 3:  Mission Statement
PAGE 4-7: Highlights
PAGE 8-11: Community
PAGE 12-14: Academic Excellence
PAGE 15-17: Western Piedmont Foundation
PAGE 18-19: Western Piedmont Foundation Scholarships
PAGE 19-21: Annual Giving Donors

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Dear Friends,

Western Piedmont Community College’s Pioneer spirit consistently propels us forward to “Opening Doors of Opportunity” for all citizens of Burke County. While we must always be mindful in planning the next step of our lives, it is important to remember and evaluate our recent milestones. Countless individuals dedicated to the College and the futures of those educated on our Main campus, the Richardson Complex, and the Foothills Higher Education Center help create opportunities for success. Our trustees and Foundation Directors unselfishly give their insightful leadership, our faculty and staff members generously provide student education and support, and our donors graciously contribute financial assistance. Together, our collaborative efforts open doors for our students so they can pursue their own personal and professional goals.

Please look inside to see how the College was successful in “Opening Doors of Opportunity” during the 2010-2012 academic year. Also, please accept my gratitude for the part you play in supporting Western Piedmont Community College.

Sincerely,

Jim W. Burnett
President, Western Piedmont Community College

C. Malone McNeely
Executive Vice-President
Chief Financial Officer

Dr. Chad Bledsoe
Vice President
Academic Affairs

Atticus Simpson
Vice President
Student Development
Executive Director
Western Piedmont
Foundation, Inc.
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**2011**

**REVENUES**
- Student Tuition & Fees: $1,707,936.06
- Federal / State Fin. Aid: $10,762,045.53
- State Operating: $12,555,484.62
- State Capital: $2,712,874.51
- County Operating: $2,115,000.00
- County Capital: $230,533.24
- Other Funding: $2,165,766.51

**TOTAL** $32,249,640.47

**EXPENDITURES**
- Instruction: $13,564,056.67
- Academic Support: $1,771,649.84
- Student Services: $1,798,243.24
- Institutional Support: $3,393,221.61
- Operation & Maintenance: $1,895,968.37
- Student Financial Aid: $6,351,420.61
- Auxiliary Enterprises: $2,029,308.73

**TOTAL** $30,803,869.07

**State Operating 39%**
- Federal/State Fin. Aid 33%
- State Capital 8%
- County Operating 7%
- Other Funding 7%
- Student Tuition & Fees 5%
- County Capital 1%

**Instruction 44%**
- Auxiliary Enterprises 6%
- Student Financial Aid 21%
- Academic Support 6%
- Operation & Maintenance 6%
- Student Services 6%
- Institutional Support 11%
The College’s mission is to provide accessible, high-quality education that improves lives and promotes growth in our community.

GOALS

Competent Citizenry
Develop an engaged, competent citizenry, possessing skills necessary for personal and academic achievement, and promote workforce training opportunities that meet employer needs and propel regional economic growth.

Student Potential
Nurture and develop the potential of every student through the use of innovative and diverse learning strategies, exceptional advising, mentoring, and individualized student services.

Safe, Supportive Environment
Maintain a safe, supportive environment that aggressively promotes lifelong learning and professional development by integrating ideas and concepts that guide goal setting, remove barriers and empower students for success.

Professional Development & Compensation
Create an environment where faculty and staff (part-time & full-time) are encouraged to excel by providing professional development opportunities as well as competitive salaries and benefits.

Diversity
Increase the diversity of students, faculty and staff to reflect that of the community while creating a campus environment that values global education and acknowledges the perspectives and contributions of all people.

Distance Learning
Explore and implement new avenues of distance learning opportunities to promote access and ensure students are exposed to advanced instructional technologies.

Technology
Develop a comprehensive, technology-based infrastructure that will enable the college to respond to evolving opportunities and exceed student support services expectations.

Data-Driven Decisions
Make decisions driven by data and a comprehensive, college-wide planning and evaluation system to ensure excellence and continuous improvement in all programs and services.

External Funding
Institute a fully integrated, far-reaching system for identification and procurement of external funding that supports the continued pursuit of quality educational programming and services.

Facilities
Plan future construction and renovations to effectively meet the needs of student population and program growth.
PROGRAM DESIGNED TO “RENEW” LOCAL WORKFORCE

For more than a century, North Carolina led the nation in manufacturing. Due to increased competition and jobs moving abroad, manufacturing has undergone a decline in our state in recent years. However, with the recent resurgence of manufacturing in Burke County, area industries were finding it increasingly difficult to locate skilled employees. To help sustain manufacturing growth, Burke Development Inc. (BDI) enlisted the assistance of Burke County Employment Security Council /JobLink Career Center; The Cognitive Connection/Workforce Investment Act Contractor; Western Piedmont Council of Governments/Workforce Development and WPCC’s Continuing Education Division to create the Re-Educating A New Employable Workforce (RENEW) program in 2011.

Of the 44 graduates of the first RENEW class in Spring 2012, more than 50% were employed in the weeks just after completing the program. The second RENEW class began in July 2012. Proud RENEW graduate Betty Gardner (r) is grateful to Nick Saturno, RENEW Project Coordinator and WPCC Instructor, for his leadership in the manufacturing training program.

WESTERN PIEDMONT SERVES AS VITAL CONTINUING EDUCATION RESOURCE FOR PROFESSIONALS STATE-WIDE

The College continues to offer necessary training for community services professionals from the county and across the state. Our WPCC’s Emergency Training Center staff provided 374 classes totaling more than 57,000 hours of education in service to at least 6,333 fire and rescue professionals throughout the state during the last year.
Emergency Services Training (EST) Center staff provided 374 classes totaling more than 57,000 hours of education in service to at least 6,333 fire and rescue professionals throughout the state during the last year. The EST Center continues to expand its training equipment as well as numbers of classes and students served. In addition, the number of agencies outside Burke County served at the Center has grown. Also, at least 166 continuing education classes were provided to 2,771 in-service officers from law enforcement organizations across North Carolina. WPCC is proud to offer essential continuing education for community services professionals.

CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATES CONFIRM WORKPLACE SKILLS
Western Piedmont awarded 484 Career Readiness Certificates (CRC) in 2011. The National Career Readiness Certificate is an essential tool and marketable credential that offers individuals and employers the opportunity to certify essential workplace skills. Upon successful completion, individuals receive Gold, Silver or Bronze Certificates according to their skill levels. The CRC is a portable credential that is nationally recognized and promotes career development and skill attainment for the individual. In addition, the Certificate confirms to employers that an individual possesses basic workplace skills including Reading For Information, Applied Math, and Locating Information. The Certificate benefits employers by increasing their bottom lines through skilled employees; reduction of turnover, overtime, waste, and training time; and increases in productivity.

HUNDREDS ATTEND “MISSION TRANSITION” JOB FAIR
Parking lots overflowed and hallways were jammed last October on the College campus as more than 350 area residents took advantage of “Mission Transition: Great Careers Start Here” Job Fair. A collaborative effort among Burke Development Inc., Work Source West (Vocational Rehabilitation), NC Employment Security Commission, Workforce Development Board (Western Piedmont Council of Governments), and the College, the Job Fair attracted 30 employers seeking job applicants. To help area residents looking for jobs, “Mission Transition: Great Careers Start Here” gave tips and tricks on how to find the employers who are hiring as well as where and how to apply. The second annual Job Fair is scheduled for Fall 2012 in Carr Hall on the WPCC campus.
COLLEGE MEETS OR EXCEEDS ALL CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

The Critical Success Factors Report is the North Carolina Community College System’s major accountability document. This annual performance report is based on data compiled from the previous year and serves to inform colleges and the public on the performance of our 58 community colleges. WPCC met or exceeded all of the state-mandated critical success factors for the last academic year, receiving a score of 95% or above on Passing Rates on Licensure and Certification Examinations, Passing Rates of Students in Developmental Courses, Success Rates of Developmental Students in Subsequent College Level Courses, Satisfaction of Program Completers and non Completers, and Client Satisfaction with Customized Training.

WPF EXCEEDS ANNUAL GIVING GOAL

Because of community support and internal employee giving, the Western Piedmont Foundation (WPF) reached and exceeded its Annual Giving Campaign goal. The Employee Giving Campaign topped previous giving records with 96% of employees contributing. In addition, the Employee Giving Campaign total launched the Community Annual Giving Campaign with its contribution providing 17% of the total campaign goal.

In total, the campaign was 65% over goal. “Burke County is indeed fortunate to have a strong community partner like Western Piedmont Community College,” said Ron Martin, WPF Campaign Chair. “The Foundation is very grateful for the support of local residents who share a passion for higher education and want to be a part of supporting a vibrant institution. The contributions of College employees as well as other local donors make a difference in providing open doors of opportunity for our students and, in turn, help create success for them, their families and our local economy.” The Foundation’s annual giving campaign under-

writes student scholarships, faculty and staff development, and financial assistance to Burke Middle College students for textbooks, supplies, and fees.

SEN. WARREN DANIEL VISITS CAMPUS

Dr. Jim Burnett, President of the College, hosted Sen. Warren Daniel of the 44th District when he visited the campus recently. One stop along the tour was in the Computer Integrated Machining Lab where student Charles Pittillo, of Chesterfield, was working on his final project for a Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Programming class. Pittillo, who graduated in May with an associate in applied science degree and diploma in Machining Technology, hopes to find employment in the tooling or automotive sector.
**OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT EXPANDS**

In 2011, the Early Childhood Education Program began constructing an Outdoor Learning Environment designed to serve as a laboratory for students, recreation center for young children, and demonstration model for childcare providers. Additional construction expanded the environment and incorporated a storytelling chair, two new bridges, fairy house and musical activity area. Phase Two construction was made possible through a $6,200 grant from the Community Foundation of Burke County, Camp Lake James Stewardship Fund. The learning environment is located on the campus’ nature trail and open to the public.

**COLLEGE RECEIVES TITLE III GRANT**

Western Piedmont was awarded a $1.7 million Title III grant to be distributed during the next five years from the U.S. Department of Education as part of the Strengthening Institutions Program. With 34 recipients nationwide, Western Piedmont is one of only two colleges in North Carolina to receive funding. This grant award will allow the College to develop a more integrated approach to serving students through professional development designed to enhance faculty and staff knowledge and use of instructional technologies, instructional methodologies, and the advising process and provide enhanced services to improve math performance among at-risk populations. As part of the grant, the College is developing an advising center, staffed by Master Advisors, which will be completed during the Fall 2012 semester and staffed by WPCC employees serving as Master Advisors. These new initiatives will be integrated with the current services.

**COLLEGE ESTABLISHES MINORITY MALE MENTORING PROGRAM**

Western Piedmont received a $15,000 grant to establish a mentoring program for minority male students. The program is part of a state-wide initiative to improve retention and graduation rates of minority males in NC community colleges and funded by the NC General Assembly and the federal College Access Challenge Grant. Six students completed the College’s inaugural “Men of Excellence” mentoring program and all showed an increase in their knowledge of campus resources, leadership skills and self-advocacy. This grant was recently renewed; allowing the program to continue through 2013.
WPCC EMPHASIZES SERVICE LEARNING

Service Learning at Western Piedmont combines community service with classroom instruction, focusing on critical, reflective thinking as well as personal and civic responsibility. Service Learning programs involve students in activities that address local needs while developing student academic skills and commitment to their community. Western Piedmont Community College was one of only six community colleges in North Carolina named to the 2008 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. In 2007, the College was one of eight community colleges in the nation awarded a three-year Horizons Service Learning Grant. Following are just three examples of campus Service Learning projects in the last academic year.

• STUDENTS GLEAN TO HELP OTHERS IN NEED

The dictionary defines “gleaning” as “to gather (grain or the like) after the reapers or regular gatherers.” Students from our Horticulture Technology and Sustainable Agriculture curriculums recently gleaned or harvested food from a local farmer’s fields for donation to several area organizations that help provide food to those in need. Gathered for donation were 500 pounds of fresh mustard greens, turnip greens, and turnips. The organizations receiving donations included Lenoir Soup Kitchen, Caldwell House, Caldwell County Yokefellow, The Shelter Home, Fairview Presbyterian Church in Lenoir, Burke Outreach Center, Options of Burke County, and Burke United Christian Ministries.

• ACCOUNTING STUDENTS OFFER FREE TAX HELP

In early 2012, WPCC Accounting students provided assistance to qualifying area residents with income tax preparation. Participants are part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in coordination with the College’s Service Learning initiative. Students involved in Service Learning gain practical experience in their fields of study, as well as a sense of civic responsibility. The Internal Revenue Service designed VITA to help people with basic tax returns, particularly those with low or limited income. Western Piedmont volunteers helped individuals who qualified to prepare their tax returns and e-file them for free. Single taxpayers earning $25,000 or less and married taxpayers earning $45,000 or less qualified for the free tax preparation assistance.
CONSTRUCTION STUDENTS LEARN THROUGH SERVICE

College students and instructors in the Building Construction Technology program brought their skills to life while building an everlasting enjoyment for folks visiting DuPont Recreational State Forest (RSF). Each semester during the last five years, students have travelled to DuPont RSF as part of their construction class Service Learning project. Students have only three days to complete a project which can range from constructing lake docks, stairs, decks and roofs. As seen here, this semester’s project was the completion of a roof over a deck that was built by the previous semester’s construction class.

HISTORY OF BROUGHTON HOSPITAL
FOCUS OF SEVERAL COMMUNITY OFFERINGS

In response to community interest in Broughton Hospital’s history, WPCC offered classes and an exhibit on the topic. The public was invited to attend the classes, “Cultural Study of Broughton Hospital and Mental Health Care in the South” and “Culture and Insanity: Perspectives from the History of Broughton Hospital.” This second class was sponsored by the Global Education Committee. Finally, students from WPCC and Appalachian State University worked together to create an exhibit about the history of Broughton Hospital as a service learning project. The exhibit, titled “What is Crazy? Understanding Broughton Hospital,” explored practices and perspectives that have changed over the nearly 140 years of the Hospital’s operation and was developed through collaboration among Historic Burke Foundation, The Broughton Foundation, Picture Burke, Appalachian State University, and WPCC.

WPCC STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF SUPPORT LOCAL HOSPICE

A team of WPCC faculty & staff members played students at a “Hoops for Hospice” basketball fundraiser to support Burke Hospice & Palliative Care in March 2011. The family-friendly event brought in $1,142 for Burke Hospice. The student team won over the faculty/staff team 66-64.

WPCC Students, Faculty & Staff Support Local Hospice
FALL SPEAKERS FORUM FOCUSES ON NEW MEDIA
“Cyberculture and the New Media: Challenges and Opportunities” was the theme for Western Piedmont’s 2011 Fall Speakers Forum/Ervin Constitutional Issues Program. The series of events, free and open to the public, focused on uses of new media in educational and social reform settings, copyright reform in the digital age, and the consequences of too much cyberworld and not enough natural world. Speakers included Dr. Xi Chen, Assistant Professor of Political Science at UNC Chapel Hill; Professor James Boyle, William Neal Reynolds Professor of Law and co-founder of the Center for the Study of the Public Domain at Duke Law School; best-selling author Richard Louv, and Associate Professor Brian Malloy of Clemson University. The annual Fall Speakers Forum/Ervin Constitutional Issues Program is made possible by the Western Piedmont Foundation.

CAMPUS INVITES COMMUNITY TO “GET UNPLUGGED”
WPCC invited the public to the College’s inaugural “Get Unplugged! Get Outdoors Day!” in October 2011. The event, inspired by the college’s “No Child Left Inside” service learning grant, offered a variety of fun, unplugged, outdoor activities including climbing sessions at the Alpine Tower, guided walks on the campus Nature Trail, tours of the campus farm, acting lessons and skits on the outdoor stage, painting and pottery at the pond, and yoga and tai chi for families. Other activities included scavenger hunts, outdoor games, kite-flying, and face painting. More than 300 local residents enjoyed the campus event.

COLLEGE HONORS BLACK HISTORY MONTH
The College honored February as Black History Month with a workshop, a presentation by a noted author, an art show, and an artist reception that were all free and open to the public. Presenters included Leslie McKesson, Dean of the College’s division of Business and Public Services division; Dori Sanders, author of two best-selling novels and owner of one of the oldest Black-owned farms in York County, SC; and artist and recent WPCC graduate Alvin Ward. College programming in honor of Black History Month is sponsored by the Global Education Committee.

COLLEGE COSPONSORS “BURKE READS”
Imagine a world where people rarely talked to
one another but instead interacted only with technology, a world where in order for people to be happy all knowledge of current events is eliminated. Ray Bradbury imagined this world in his 1953 classic, *Fahrenheit 451*. In Fall 2011, the book was featured in a community reading program in Burke County called “Burke Reads,” sponsored by Burke County Public Library System, Library Foundation of Burke County, Morganton Day School, Burke County Literacy Council, North Carolina School for the Deaf, Burke County Public School and WPCC. Program offerings from the College included a presentation of scenes from *Fahrenheit 451* as well as a full immersion video installation of a scene from *Fahrenheit 451* created by College students at the MESH Gallery in downtown Morganton.

**COLLEGE’S PROFESSIONAL CRAFTS INSTRUCTORS & STUDENTS INSPIRE & EDUCATE LOCAL RESIDENTS**

Western Piedmont’s Professional Crafts program students, instructors, and guest artists work diligently to share their passion and art with the local community. Courtney Long, WPCC Professional Crafts Coordinator, displayed her pottery works at the woodworking and pottery show, “2 Ways With Wood, 2 Ways With Clay,” at Kala Gallery in downtown Morganton. James Ellis, a Fall 2011 graduate of WPCC’s Professional Crafts: Wood program, exhibited his graduate woodworking show “Wood & You Know It, New Works by James Ellis,” also at Kala Gallery, during the last academic year. In addition, professional crafts on-campus demonstrations were available free to the public by western North Carolina potters Stanley Mace Andersen and Michael Kline, and western North Carolina Fine Wood worker Fatie Atkinson.

PICTURED FROM TOP:

Chair by NC Fine Wood Worker Fatie Atkinson; second row left is Table by WPCC Grad James Ellis; second row right is NC Potter Stan Andersen; bottom left is NC Potter Michael Kline; bottom right is Pottery by WPCC Professional Crafts Coordinator Courtney Long.
MEDICAL ASSISTING & NURSING GRADUATES MAKE 100% PASS RATES
The College’s 2011 Medical Assisting program graduates achieved a 100% passage rate on the national examination for the Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) credential. The CMA examination is administered by the American Association of Medical Assistants in conjunction with the National Board of Medical Examiners. In addition, Western Piedmont’s 2011 Nursing program graduates also achieved a 100% passage rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

HUFFMAN RECEIVES EXCELLENCE AWARD
WPCC’s Karen C. Huffman was recognized in Spring 2012 along with 57 other North Carolina community college students for academic excellence at an event in Raleigh. Ms. Huffman is shown with Dr. Scott Ralls (l), President of the State Board of Community Colleges, and Hilda Pinnix-Ragland (r), Chair of the State Board of Community Colleges. As a dislocated worker from the retail furniture industry, Karen C. Huffman entered Western Piedmont to continue a dream that began in 1983. “Education is the gift I have given myself after years of putting the care of my family, including my four children, first,” she said. “It is with their support as well as the faculty and staff of the campus that I continue on my professional path toward a Criminal Justice degree.”

WPCC STUDENTS TAKE TOP PARALEGAL HONORS
Students from our Paralegal program swept the top three awards in the North Carolina Paralegal Association’s (NCPA) state essay competition. Ralph Shelton, a second-year Paralegal student, took top honors; Wendi Cooke, currently enrolled as a full-time student in the College’s Paralegal program, received second place, and Mary McDermott, a second-year Paralegal student, won third prize. While the NCPA sponsors the essay contest each year, this is the first time that any student from Western Piedmont has taken the top title.

STUDENTS WIN SOUTHERN SPRING SHOW NATIONAL AWARD
WPCC students won an award for their garden space entry at the Southern Spring Show.
Home & Garden Show in Charlotte in March 2011. The College’s garden, Birds Do It, Bees Do It... Let’s Fall in Love, inspired by a Cole Porter song, received the prestigious American Horticultural Society Environmental Award. Given by the American Horticultural Society, the award recognizes the recipient for horticulture excellence as well as the demonstration of the bond and best example between horticulture and the environment. The designation is also awarded based on the best demonstration of skillful design that demonstrates environmental stewardship in the garden. The College’s garden design featured an authentic 1940’s vintage-inspired backyard garden with herbs; a spring vegetable garden; heirloom apples; edible landscaping; traditional garden shrubs like flowering quince, bridal wreath spirea, and forsythia; a beehive; purple martin birdhouse gourds; a small chicken coop with live heritage breed Chantecler chickens; wooden rain barrel, and flag stone patio. The garden included a house facade of rough-cut board and batten siding, as well as a pressed tin roof and laurel fence, all typical of 1940’s western North Carolina farmsteads.

INSTRUCTOR RECOGNITIONS
In their personal and professional lives, College instructors continually strive to perform at their best. Here are just a few of their accomplishments in the last academic year.

• ADAMS RECEIVES DOCTORATE
Instructor Gerri Adams recently received her doctorate degree in Education with specialization in Instructional Design for Online Learning from Capella University. Included among the courses Dr. Adams teaches are Expository Writing, Argument-based Research, Literature-based Research, Professional Research and Reporting, Western World Literature and British Literature.

• DAVID BENNER PLACES IN NATIONAL COMPETITION
College Physical Education Coordinator and Instructor David Benner finished second place out of nearly 100 competitors in the solo down-river race at the 2012 National Canoeing Championships on the Nantahala River. He then teamed with solo champion Jeff Owens of Maine to win the team down-river race. Benner teaches College classes on Weight Training, Walking for Fitness, Canoeing, and Rock Climbing among others.

• COLLEGE PROFESSOR PUBLISHES 12TH TEXTBOOK
Instructor Neal Bevans recently published his twelfth legal textbook, Court Procedure and
Evidence Issues. This text, designed for Criminal Justice students, is available nationwide. Bevans, the College’s Paralegal Technology Program Coordinator, received Western Piedmont’s Excellence in Teaching Award in 2010.

EMS COORDINATOR GAINS GRADUATE HONOR
David Young, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator, received the Student Research Award from Western Carolina University while in pursuit of a Master of Health Sciences degree. Selected from a class of 80, Young received the recognition based on the rigor of his graduate project’s research design as well as the potential impact the project findings may have on the Emergency Medical Services profession and potential stroke victims.
FOUNDATION SUPPORTS STUDENT, FACULTY & STAFF NEEDS

Western Piedmont Foundation is a non-profit organization, founded to encourage and develop public and private support for Western Piedmont Community College beyond that provided by county, state and federal funds. Created in 1967, it was one of the first fundraising organizations created by community colleges in North Carolina.

The Foundation provides funding for student scholarships, cultural arts programs, faculty development, educational equipment, and capital building projects. Many needs exist that are not sufficiently provided for by public sources, making private contributions important in giving the College a margin of excellence above the average.

To learn more about how you can support the Foundation and the College, please visit www.wpcc.edu and open the link “About the College” and then select “Western Piedmont Foundation.”

FOUNDATION GAINS NEW LEADERSHIP

Atticus Simpson joined the College and the Foundation in January 2012. In addition to serving as Vice President of Student Development, Simpson also leads the Foundation as Executive Director. He most recently served as Director of Institutional Advancement at Northeastern Technical College in Cheraw, SC where he previously acted as the Public Information and Research Coordinator.

WPF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terry R. Childers  President
Philip E. Moore  1st Vice President
William E. Lennon  2nd Vice President
Susan Pollpeter  3rd Vice President
Jane Moody  Treasurer
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James Elliott  Sue Holler
Earl B. Searcy, III  Dan Hoyle
Mindy Solano  Dr. Steven G. Sudderth
Ronald F. Martin  Gina Vassallo

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ASSISTANCE MAKING ANY TYPE OF GIFT, PLEASE CONTACT ATTICUS SIMPSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 828-448-3120 ASIMPSON@WPCC.EDU

The envelope inserted in this year’s annual report is for your convenience when you make your donation to the Foundation. For more information about the Foundation and the different areas in which donations may be made, contact Western Piedmont Foundation at 828-448-3122.
MINI-GRANTS AWARDED BY FOUNDATION
BENEFIT STUDENT PROGRAMS & SERVICES
The Faculty and Staff Mini-Grants Program funded by the Foundation encourages and provides financial support for employees to develop and implement innovative projects that will improve the quality and/or quantity of programs and services. In addition, the mini-grants also support and enrich the student experience and learning environment at WPCC. Funds can be used for conference registration, program or project costs, or to purchase equipment and supplies.

Mini-grant recipients in the last academic year went to the College’s Global Education Committee for multi-cultural events in celebration of Black History Month; to Warren Gruber, Computer & Electrical Engineering Technology Instructor, to purchase a Radio Frequency Spectrum Analyzer that will provide students with additional skills and practical application; to Cindy Konarski, Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator/Instructor, for a Therapeutic Gaming Technology project developed collaboratively by the College’s Therapeutic Recreation program, Digital Effects & Animation Technology program and the Enola Group, and to Ann Marie McNeely, Developmental Education Dean, to underwrite the costs of professional development for employees in Developmental Education. Mini-grant funds are raised each year through the Foundation Annual Giving Campaign.

FOUNDATION SUPPORTS COLLEGE EXCELLENCE
The Foundation places high priority on recognizing and awarding excellence of College alumni, faculty and staff. Each of the following three awards is made possible by Western Piedmont Foundation support.

• LARRY WILLIAMSON NAMED ALUMNUS OF YEAR
Annually, the Foundation recognizes an Alumnus who has given unselfishly of his or her time and talents to advance the mission and goals of WPCC and the local community. Larry Williamson was recently named the 2012 Alumnus of the Year at the College’s Spring 2012 graduation ceremony. Williamson (left) receives Western Piedmont Community College’s Alumnus of the Year Award from Dr. Jim Burnett, College President.

• MICHAEL SPATH RECEIVES EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD
Honored for his dedication to the teaching profession for 2012 was Michael Spath, the College’s Life Science Coordinator in the Science, Engineering and Mathematics division. He received the annual Excellence in Teaching Award following nomination by his peers and students. Selection criteria
for the Award recognize extraordinary efforts as a teacher; service to the profession, the College and the community; involvement with present and former students, and evidence of innovative or special efforts in teaching.

• MELISSA GRILL HONORED WITH 2011 STAFF AWARD
Melissa Grill was named as the 2011 Outstanding Staff Award recipient following nomination by her co-workers. The annual award recognizes an outstanding staff member selected for superior work history, strong commitment to the College’s open-door philosophy, and dedication to assisting students, faculty, and staff. Ms. Grill is the College’s Instructional Technology Administrator in the Learning Resources and Technology division.

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS ESTABLISHED
The Foundation is pleased to announce the establishment of two new scholarships that make it possible for students to pursue their educational goals at the College and benefit the community by supporting the development of an educated workforce and citizenry.

• J. IVERSON RIDDLE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP
Awarded to J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center employees, this scholarship is created to meet expenses incurred while in pursuit of academic goals at the College. Recipients must demonstrate financial need, be a permanent part-time or permanent full-time employee at J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center, and demonstrate good standing as an employee of J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center. Preference will be given to employees enrolling in a Health Science or transfer program at WPCC. The scholarship is created by Ms. Mary Jean Grose of Winston Salem, NC, in honor of previous and present employees at J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center.

• LIZ OXFORD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Dr. Cheryl Oxford and Louise White, both Instructors Emeritus at the College, and Joe Oxford created this endowed scholarship in honor of Elizabeth Ann Oxford, sister of Joe and Cheryl. Liz Oxford was a 1987 graduate of Western Piedmont with an Associate in Fine Arts-Drama degree. Scholarship recipients must be in pursuit of an Associate in Arts, Associate in Fine Arts, or Associate in Science degree with plans to transfer to a four-year college or university. Awarded funds will be used to pay tuition and book expenses at Western Piedmont.
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Benner-Pharr Endowed Scholarship
Nadia & Steve Blahut Endowed Scholarship
Richard T. Breeden, Sr. Academic Merit Endowed Scholarship
Breeden Family Collegiate Endowed Scholarship
Suzanne Bleynat Bridges Endowed Scholarship
Bright Salvageot Endowed Scholarship
Sam Brinkley Endowed Scholarship
Iris “Tootsie” Browning Endowed Scholarship
Burke County Firefighters Association Endowed Scholarship
Burke County Medical Alliance Scholarship
Doug Cline Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Carlton E. Caruso, Sr. Endowed Scholarship
Chad B. Cole Merit Endowed Scholarship
George T. Cornwell Endowed Scholarship
Helen Kincaid Craft Endowed Scholarship
Elizabeth Irene Dale Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Virginia Davis Endowed Scholarship
James H. and Doris E. Edwards Endowed Scholarship
The Honorable Sam J. Ervin, III Scholarship
Dr. Jean C. Ervin Presbyterian Endowed Scholarship
Fitzgerald Nursery Endowed Scholarship
Foothills Chapter North Carolina Registry for Interpreters of the Deaf Endowed Scholarship
Foothills NC Society of Surveyors Endowed Scholarship
Larry “Skip” Foxx, Jr. Endowed Scholarship
Raymond B. Goodfellow Endowed Scholarship
Grace Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Endowed Scholarship
Riley Thomas Greer Endowed Scholarship
Johny & Abby Hildebrand Endowed Scholarship
Margaret H. Hoyle Endowed Scholarship
Steve M. Hoyle Memorial Endowed Scholarship
R.O. Huffman/ Joe K. Byrd, Sr. Merit Scholarship
Richard B. Hurst Endowed Scholarship
Linwood & Harriet Inscoe Endowed Scholarship
Ruth Coffey Isenhour Endowed Scholarship
Elizabeth Hooper Jackson, M.D. Endowed Memorial Scholarship
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Transferring to Appalachian State University
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