

Dental Assisting Program Approved

Western Piedmont Community College today received official approval from the State Board of Education for a new Dental Assisting Program.

There are only five of these programs in the state, and Western Piedmont will have the only one west of Charlotte.

Dental assisting is one of the fastest growing occupations for women today, it was pointed out. The role of the dental assistant has evolved from that of receptionist only to that of fully participating member of the dental team; primary emphasis is on chairside assisting, although she continues to perform numerous duties related to

office management, patient relations, and laboratory procedures.

The dental profession now recognizes the contribution the dental assistant can make to extension of services and increased productivity of the dental office it was stated. Projected needs call for a fivefold expansion in numbers of graduates and continued improvement in the quality of training programs.

The duties of the dental assistant vary somewhat, depending on the number of auxiliary workers employed. In some offices the assistant is responsible for all three areas described by college officials. In others, she may be responsible for only one area.

In rendering chairside assistance to the dentist, the dental assistant is responsible for placing instruments for use, keeping the operating field clear during treatment, preparing restorative materials and dental cements, passing materials and instruments during dental procedures, applying fluorides and topical anesthesia under the direction of the dentist and complete sterilization of instruments and cleanliness of operatory after use.

In the laboratory of the dental office, she may make models of the teeth and mouth, cast inlays and crowns, expose and process x-ray films and mount finished x-rays.

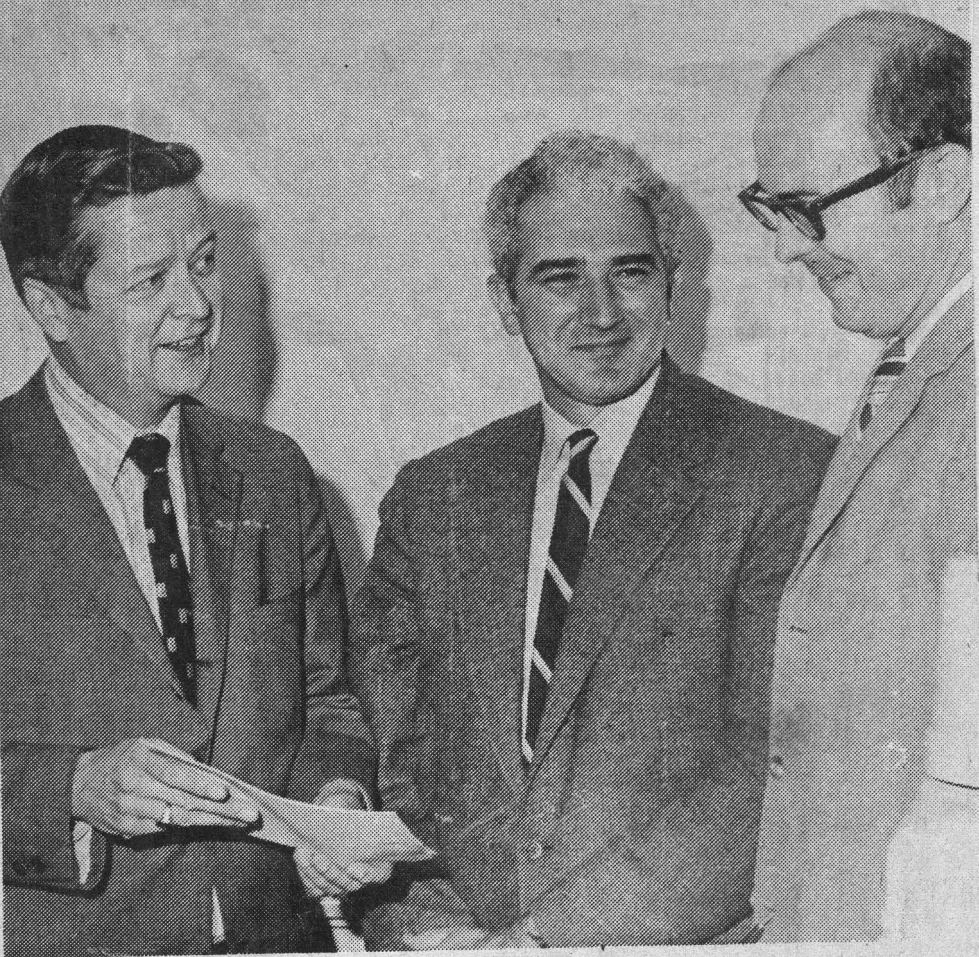
In acting as office manager and receptionist, she receives patients, arranges appointments, records treatments, keeps accounts, maintains inventories, and orders supplies.

The program will be a cooperative one between Western Piedmont and Western Carolina Center whereby students will take their classroom training at the college and the clinical training at the center. According to Brooks Piercy, director of occupational programs at the college, this will be a unique arrangement compared to any other program in the state and will provide the use of college classrooms and laboratories along with the excellent staff of clinical facilities of Western Carolina Center.

Applicants must be female, high school graduates who demonstrate an aptitude for the field.

Interested persons should immediately contact the Student Services office at Western Piedmont for information and application forms.

A maximum of sixteen students can be admitted to the first class which will begin in September. The program is twelve months in length and the class will graduate in August of 1972.



Plan Program To Train Dental Assistants

Dr. George Johnson (right), who is director of dental services at Western Carolina Center, talks over plans for the Dental Assisting program which will be offered by Western Piedmont Community College in a cooperative project with WCC. Dr. Johnson, who will also

serve as director of the Dental Assisting program at the community college, chats with Dr. J. Iverson Riddle (left), superintendent of Western Carolina Center, and Dr. Gordon C. Blank, WPCC president. (Staff Photo).