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A Great Day For Everybody

Sunday will be a great day for Western Piedmont Community College.

Formal dedication ceremonies, with former Governor Terry Sanford, will be an epic event in the history of this Burke County institution.

The dedication itself doesn't make a college any better or any worse. But it does serve to recognize the existence of a college and to acknowledge symbolically the part that it will play in the future of the region it serves.

The dedication could have been held last fall, or any time after Western Piedmont moved to its new campus, but it was difficult to fix a time in which all the appropriate personages could convene on the college for the ceremonial event. And it was felt that a Spring day in 1969 would be a fitting time.

It seems especially appropriate that the dedication committee invited Mr. Sanford to deliver the address, since it was during his term as Governor that the 1963 General Assembly created the Community College system in North Carolina following a study by the Governor's Commission on Education Beyond the High School.

Sunday will be a great day for those most directly involved with Western Piedmont — the administration and faculty. They, after all, are directly responsible for getting the college properly established as a going enterprise. They are the persons who made it possible for Western Piedmont to receive full accreditation last December from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. This gave the college national recognition as an educational institution at the earliest possible date that such accreditation could be received. The president, his staff and the entire faculty can take pride in that accomplishment, assured that their direction has been adjudged sound by authorities in every aspect of higher education. This in itself adds a bouquet for this dedication event which would not have been the case if the ceremony had been held earlier, when the accreditation was being awaited and when there was a bit of wonder "Will we or won't we get it the first time around?"

The dedication will be gratifying to students, trustees and others having any direct relationship with the community college.

But nobody has a monopoly on pride over the progress of Western Piedmont. Actually Sunday will be a great day for residents of Burke and neighboring counties. There is a special proprietary interest for people all over Burke County, and this goes back to a day in 1964 when the voters of Burke marched to the polls and voted by a margin of 17-to-1 to create a community college. The proposal was carried in every precinct and the overwhelming support was at a volume unheard of up to that time in North Carolina.

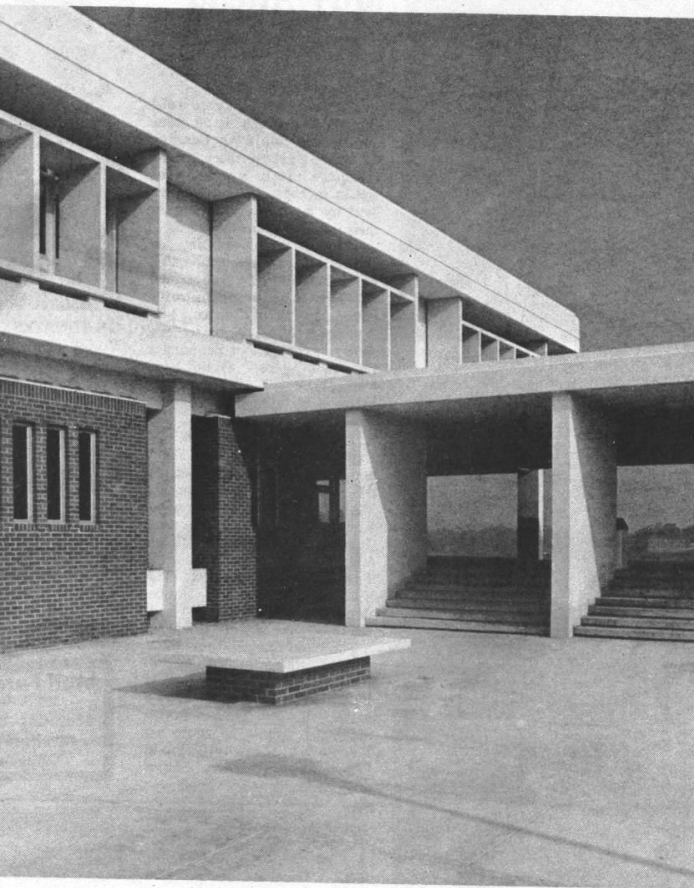
Western Piedmont had at its birth the support of the entire county and these same people patiently waited only undiminished interest its establishment in temporary quarters and the slow-seeming process of constructing its own buildings on an impressively beautiful site.

These citizens from every corner of Burke County can see now the fulfillment of what was just a dream. They can tour on Sunday the facilities which make up the physical mechanism for this new concept of education — a comprehensive, open-door institution in which a quality junior college is just a part. Its comprehensive nature makes it broad enough to embrace the needs of everybody, for it meets the student, whether a teenager or a mature adult, on his own level and adjusts to the needs of that person. It's a departure from the educational mould in which every student is required to meet fixed standards. There is, of course, no lack of high standards in its curriculum courses, but the difference is that if a person needs remedial work to prepare himself, efforts are aimed at preparing him for that level of instruction to which he aspires. The diversity of its offerings continues to impress those who are most familiar with the comprehensive community college concept.

All of this explains why the public should take seriously the invitation to tour Western Piedmont during the open house and to attend the dedication ceremony which will follow.

Sunday is a great day for everybody.

Western Piedmont Beckons . . .



. . . For Dedication Sunday And For Future Service

Public Is Invited To College Dedication

Former Governor Terry Sanford will deliver the main address at the dedication ceremony at Western Piedmont Community College Sunday at 3 p.m.

Open house, from 1 until 2:45 p.m., will precede the dedication ceremony.

The buildings and campus of the college will be dedicated in an outdoor ceremony on the college plaza. In the event of rain, the program will be moved to the teaching auditorium.

Sanford, who was perhaps best known for his drive for "quality education" during his four-year administration, 1961-65, returned to private law practice as a member of the firm of Sanford, Cannon, Adams and McCullough in Raleigh after leaving office.

For two years, he directed "A Study of American States" at Duke University, a project

designed to study ways in which state government can become more effective, more creative, and more responsible to the needs of the people.

In 1966 Harper and Row
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published Sanford's "But What About the People?", the story of what happened in the field of education during his term as governor. A second book, "Storm Over The States," was published by McGraw-Hill in 1967. It describes means of improving state government and the federal system.

Sanford will be introduced by E. P. Dameron, member of the college's board of trustees.

The ceremony will begin with a formal academic procession and greetings will be brought by representatives from several state and regional boards and agencies. President Gordon C. Blank will speak after his induction.

Others taking part on the program include W. Stanley Moore, chairman of the board of trustees, Dr. E. W. Phifer Jr. and Robert P. Carr, members of the board, all of Morganton; A. G. Odell Jr., Charlotte architect; Rev. L. Clement Hahn, of Hildebran and Rev. John W. Carter of Morganton.

The public is cordially invited to both the open house and the dedication ceremony.



Former Governor Terry Sanford