

Educators To Make Survey

Accreditation Team Coming To College

A committee of educators from member institutions of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools will visit Western Piedmont Community College during March 19-22. The visit is a part of Western Piedmont's institutional self-study, required for reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association.

Reaffirmation of accreditation by the process of self-study and committee visitation is necessary four years after initial accreditation and every 10 years thereafter.

The visiting committee members represent 11 two-year colleges or systems from seven states in the southeast. The committee chairman is Dr. William A. Scaggs, president of Meridian Junior College, Meridian, Miss. Dr. Scaggs visited Western Piedmont in mid-February to lay the groundwork for the visit of the full committee.

The committee members who will arrive Sunday for a four-day stay are: Dr. Dana B. Hamel, chancellor of the Virginia Community College System, Richmond, Va.; Lee Young, business manager of Tallahassee Community College, Tallahassee, Fla.; John Merritt, dean of student services at Central Virginia Community College, Lynchburg, Va.; Mrs. Wanda K. Sivells, librarian at Wharton County Junior College, Wharton, Texas; John B. Bailey, chairman of the Division of social sciences at Gainesville Junior College, Gainesville, Ga.; Dr. John Neff, head of the humanities division at Wytheville Community College, Wytheville, Va.; James E. Giesemann, associate professor of chemistry at Chattanooga State Technical Institute, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Stuart Brady, chairman of the business

division, Southwest Virginia Community College, Richlands, Va.; Mrs. Effie Kemp, director of nursing at Paducah Community College, Paducah, Ky.; and Ed E. Ek, director of technical education at Daytona Beach Junior College, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Western Piedmont was initially accredited by the Southern Association in 1968 at the earliest possible time for a new institution to be accredited. As a fully accredited member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Piedmont has made its place among the quality educational institutions of the South.

The Southern Association was founded in 1895. The work of the association has been a major force in continuously upgrading the quality of southern education. The association pioneered the use of the institutional self-study as a means of assuring constructive growth and betterment of institutions within the context of each institution's goals and purposes.

Western Piedmont's self-study was organized in the fall of 1970 under the directorship of Giles Shepherd, instructor of physics at Western Piedmont since 1967.

Working with Shepherd in coordinating the self-study have been Mrs. Ruby Harbison, instructor of biology; Mrs. Ruth Thomas, instructor of social sciences; Harold Olsen, director of occupational programs; and the late Paul Hutchins, instructor of business.

Subcommittees were appointed to study all aspects of college activities, and to compare them with the standards of the College Delegate Assembly of the Southern Association. From information compiled by these committees, the steering committee compiled the self-

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study report to aid the visiting committee in making its evaluative report.

After four days of interviews, meetings, and research, the visiting committee will prepare a report to the Southern Association, after which the College Delegate Assembly of the association will act on reaffirmation of accreditation at the December 1972 annual meeting.

In commenting on the visit of the Southern Association team, Western Piedmont's president, Dr. Gordon C. Blank, said, "We look forward to the evaluation visit so that we may continue our quest for institutional improvement in an effort to better serve our students and community."

W. Stanley Moore of Morganton is the chairman of the board of trustees of Western Piedmont Community College. The vice-chairman is Robert P. Carr, also of Morganton. Dr. E. W. Phifer Jr., Morganton surgeon, serves as secretary and was the first chairman of the board.

Other board members are Frank C. Patton, G. Maurice Hill, and D. Holman Sigmon of Morganton; Earl M. Spencer of Valdese; Thad M. Poteat of Drexel; J. Ray Childers of Hildebran; E. P. Dameron of Marion; Eugene M. White of Lenoir; and T. J. Curtis of Glen Alpine.