

WPCC to launch TV satellite course plan

Western Piedmont Community College's Continuing Education Department will launch a concept that may eventually lead to graduate courses via satellite television.

The program, which gets under way at Western Piedmont Community College on Jan. 24, to run through May 2, involves a course entitled "Teaching the Young Handicapped Child: An Overview."

Classes will meet from 7 to 9:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

Western Piedmont Community College recently joined a network of five Appalachia locations equipped to receive the satellite transmissions. In addition to WPCC, other locations in the state include Wilkes Community College, McDowell Technical Institute, Asheville-Buncombe Institute, and Southeastern Community College.

The courses to be offered initially

over the satellite network are produced at the University of Kentucky and are transmitted from that site to all satellite receiving stations in the area.

According to Lamar Wommack of the WPCC Continuing Education Department, the initial courses via satellite will not offer college parallel credit, but will offer Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Some of the other colleges and technical institutes in the satellite network will offer college credit for the courses.

Wommack said if interest is sufficient in the pilot satellite program, graduate courses may be offered at a later date on WPCC campus, but through participating universities. "But we are not shooting for that right now, we just want to see if this thing will work before we go all the way with it," Wommack said.

At present, three courses are

planned through the satellite set-up. The first one, which involves teaching of the young handicapped, will begin on Jan. 24 to run through May 2, with weekly Tuesday meetings running from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The course calls for a \$5 registration fee plus the purchase of supplies and materials amounting to less than \$20.

The second course is slated to run from Jan. 26 to April 27, with classes meeting each Thursday from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

The title of that course is "Designing Success Strategies," which also requires a \$5 registration fee and the purchase of about \$12 in books and supplies.

That telecourse is designed to provide in-service training for classroom teachers K-12, administrators, and counselors as they develop

(Turn to page 8A)

WPCC to launch

(From page one)

new means of positive interaction with students.

The third course, which is offered on Wednesdays from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Feb. 1 through May 3, is entitled "Simple Gifts: Teaching the Gifted and Talented." That course requires the standard \$5 registration fee and about \$20 in books and supplies.

Wommack pointed out that the response to these initial courses will determine whether the college program can be expanded to include graduate courses via satellite at a later date.

He said he feels that the three course offerings should be of great interest to the public school teachers, and that the initial course on teaching the young handicapped child, should be of particular interest to public school teachers in view of the recently enacted laws governing the teaching of the handicapped.

While the course on the teaching of the young handicapped will cost less than \$25 at Western Piedmont Community College, Wommack said, it would cost in excess of \$110 if it were taken on the University of Kentucky campus.