

Community Colleges, WCU Offering Program

Special To The Record

CULLOWHEE — A cooperative project to provide bachelor's degree programs in business and industrial technology in the Burke-Caldwell-Catawba-Wilkes county area by Western Carolina University has been announced by Dr. H. F. Robinson, WCU chancellor.

Joining Robinson in announcing the program were the presidents of four cooperating two-year institutions: Dr. Gordon C. Blank of Western Piedmont Community College, Dr. H. Edwin Beam of Caldwell Community College, Dr. Robert Paap of Catawba Valley Technical Institute and Dr. David Daniel of Wilkes Community College.

The new baccalaureate degree programs are being established in response to requests from throughout the four-county region for those additional courses required by the persons who have earned the associate degree at the two-year schools, but need a four-year degree.

The first classes will be offered in January at WPCC, a central site for the four-county area. Robinson said consideration is being given to establish a second site in the area if interest is great enough.

"Our objective," he said, "is to carry out a commitment to deliver educational services to people employed in business and industry as close as possible to their homes and places of employment."

On-site delivery of educational programs, he said, "is a commitment I brought with me when I accepted the chancellorship of Western Carolina University. We have received excellent support and encouragement in this philosophy from President William Friday and the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. Moreover, in the long-standing tradition of Western Carolina of providing extension instruction, my colleagues in the administration and faculty at WCU have joined enthusiastically in this outreach program."

Robinson said the citizens of the regions served by the four two-year institutions "are extremely fortunate to have institutions and leaders so totally dedicated to serving them. We at Western Carolina have never entered into a cooperative arrangement with other institutions with greater satisfaction, because we have found at Western Piedmont, Caldwell Community, Catawba Valley and Wilkes Community the

same determination to go where the people are."

WCU expects to offer up to 18 semester hours of course work each year. Students can proceed at their own pace as their work schedules permit and WCU will bring to the four-county region all of the courses that will be required for the degree sought by the student.

The two degree programs that WCU will bring to the region are the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology.

The Industrial Technology program that Western Carolina will be offering in the area is for persons in or planning to enter occupations in business and industry. The program will stress supervisory skills; rather than have an education orientation.

The BSIT will be for students who have the associate degree in an appropriate engineering technology-type program. It will provide a course of instruction that emphasizes industrial supervision.

Representatives of the four colleges plan a series of meetings to inform interested persons about the new program, and to meet with graduates of the four institutions who want to learn how they might continue into the four-year degree programs.

The schedule for offering the courses will be determined after the needs of prospective students in the region have been established in the meetings. The project will be administered through WCU's Division of Continuing Education under the direction of Dr. Hal Salisbury.

In addition to providing faculty members on a regular basis each semester, the university also is exploring the possibilities of utilizing video tape cassettes produced by other faculty members. This prospect would offer students specialized instruction by faculty members not actually in the classroom.

Further information may be obtained on the project from Salisbury at the Division of Continuing Education, WCU; from Dr. Dan Stallings, vice president of instruction at CCC&TI; H. D. Moretz, dean of the college at WPCC; Ervin Lineberger, dean of instruction at CVTI; or Dr. William R. Richardson, vice president for planning and development at Wilkes Community College.