

Active search continues for new WPCC president

News Herald May 19, 1978

The search is actively under way for the third president of Western Piedmont Community College.

A Presidential Search Committee of five members of the college board of trustees is seeking a successor for Dr. Gordon C. Blank, who will leave WPCC in late June to become president at Adirondack Community College at Glens Falls, N.Y. after 10½ years as president of Western Piedmont.

W. Stanley Moore, chairman of the search committee and past chairman of the board of trustees, says the committee has been told to "expect two hundred to five hundred applications."

Nominations for the top position at the college will be accepted until Sept. 15, Moore says, but applications and resumes will be accepted until Oct. 15. It may be up to three months after this date before the committee will decide on Dr. Blank's successor.

So far, the committee has received between 15 and 18 applications, Moore says. Two nominations of local persons have been received and these people will asked if they would like to apply, as will all other nominees. Moore would not name the local persons.

Moore did say the committee is not limiting its search geographically. "The point is, we're considering anybody, anywhere," he said.

The two major qualifications the committee is seeking in any candidate for the job are experience and an understanding of the comprehensive community college concept.

According to a position announcement recently released under specially designed committee letterhead, the committee is looking for someone with "experience with academic policies, curriculum development, fiscal

management, and effective communications skills," which they say would be valuable to both the applicant and the college. Someone with a doctorate is also preferred.

The announcement has been circulated to 274 institutions both inside and outside North Carolina, as well as to organizations such as the Burke County NAACP, the Southern Regional Education Board, the Affirmative Action Record and the Project on the Status of Women. The committee hopes to receive nominations or recommendations of qualified persons as well as applications as a result of its search.

The search committee has met twice, once to set its general course and a second time to receive input from students, faculty and staff at Western Piedmont Community College.

Moore says an advisory committee will be selected from these representative groups to make recommendations to the committee once applications begin to come in at a faster rate.

Serving with Moore on the committee are Thad M. Poteat, chairman of the board of trustees; Robert P. Carr, a former board chairman; D. Holmon Sigmon, vice chairman of the board; all members of WPCC board of trustees executive committee, and Dr. E.W. Phifer Jr., secretary of the board and its first president.