

Title III grant confirms high regard held for WPCC

By Alex Huppe
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MORGANTON -- When N.C. Sen. Robert Morgan called Western Piedmont's Student Services Office in August, the good news was unofficially official. Confirmation of the college's \$100,000 grant award didn't come from the Health, Education and Welfare department (HEW) until the beginning of college registration on Sept. 4.

But President Wilmon H. Droze knew the college was a winner ... and a big winner ... from the moment Sen. Morgan called.

The Title III grant is the first major new program grant to the college since 1973, and represents federal recognition of Western Piedmont Community College's contribution to the lives of the citizens it serves. The large new grant comes to the college as Strengthening Developing Institutions Program (SDIP) money, and in effect acknowledges the effectiveness of the present programs the college has established.

The new money will be used to strengthen student services, computer science and English composition programs.

Project director Dr. Edwin Chapman commented, "This is a real vote of confidence in the college and our programs."

Dr. Nancy Moore will coordinate use of the \$40,000 allocated to stu-

dent services, dean Harold Olsen will coordinate the \$30,000 for computer science and the \$30,000 for English composition will be coordinated by the director of freshman composition, George Fouts.

College officials feel that the Title III grant was awarded them because of demonstrated competence in their work in developmental studies, and because of a history of working to meet the needs of special students.

The monies allocated to student services will be used to establish a more effective placement testing program, to improve student retention and to bring selected courses out to those who need them. In addition, some of the money will be used for public information.

The sum set aside for computer science will be used for developing staff use of computers for instruction, adapting the computer for specific courses as an instructional device, and for improving administrative services.

The English composition program will use its share of the funds to strengthen its basic writing courses and to provide in-service training in the area of teaching for all college faculty.

English composition was specified in the grant as a follow-up to the National Endowment fellowship given to the director of freshman composition earlier this year.

Commenting on the Title III grant,

incoming president Droze said, "It proves the high regard held for the college nationally, and indicates that the federal government has faith in us. The grant is a boost for the college and that means it's a boost for the county as well."