

Ribbon-cutting, dedication held for WPCC greenhouse

By LINDA PHILLIPS
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On the brisk, clear December afternoon, Western Piedmont Community College christened the recently completed greenhouse that gleams on campus near F Building.

There on the sunny hilltop, a crowd of interested students, citizens and school officials crowded around the facility to witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication Thursday.

College president Dr. Jim Richardson opened the ceremonies by bestowing thanks for the project on behalf of the college. He commended the board of trustees, the Western Piedmont Foundation, and the horticulture department for their hard work the building.

"When we began the horticulture program last year, there were only 15 students enrolled; now there are 36," said Richardson. "We are pleased with this increase after only one year of the program.

"They've had to work all year without a lab. The use of this greenhouse in the horticulture program will help a lot of students learn to make a living in the years to come," he said.

Jerry Norvell, president of the Western Piedmont Foundation, presented the completed house to Bob Byrd, who accepted it on behalf of the board of trustees.

"This is tangible evidence of the work of the foundation in the life and growth of Western Piedmont Community College," said Norvell. "And we hope to generate enough money to continue the growth and development of WPCC in the years to come."

Byrd accepted the facility, saying, "This was a fairyland dream come true. Not only will it be a learning and teaching facility but it is aesthetic, inspiring and colorful. It's something people in the community will want to come and see."

Byrd commended Bob Dockery, horticulture professor, and Chester West, architect, for their dedication and work on the project.

Dr. Gresham Orrison, chairman of the horticulture advisory committee, also spoke at the ceremony in behalf of the advisory committee.

"This structure is not only an en-

richment to the community but to the lives and futures of the children who will come here," said Orrison. "It is a tribute to the college but it is also a tribute to the professors who have worked so long and hard on the program already."

The Rev. W. Flemon McIntosh Jr. gave the invocation.

Following the invocation, the ribbon was cut by Orrison, Robert Carr, Mrs. Edward W. Phifer Jr., Richardson, Byrd and Norvell. Then a tour of the plant-filled house was given.

According to Richardson, the steel and glass edifice was funded by the

Western Piedmont Foundation, which had begun with \$15,000 and was able to generate another \$15,000.

"All of the work on this building was done by members of our own maintenance crew," said Richardson. "We did not have to subcontract for any of the work. I want to commend all of them. Had we had to contract this building, it would have cost us at least twice as much, at least \$60,000."

The members of the building team include William A. Harris, James R. Huffman, Delbert Lingafelt, Glenn Morrison, Grant Pearson, Wayne Polard and Frank Trull.



Western Piedmont Community College officials cut the ribbon for the college's newly completed greenhouse. Shown (from left) are: Gresham Orrison, Robert Carr, Mrs.

E.W. Phifer Jr., Jim Richardson, Bob Byrd and Jerry Norvell. (Staff photo by Chuck Liddy)