

Foundation continues fund raising

By LINDA PHILLIPS
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Things are going well in the drive to raise money for a new vocational education building for Western Piedmont Community College, according to Frank C. Patton Jr.

Patton is chairman of a special fund-raising committee of The Western Piedmont Foundation.

The deadline for the foundation's most recent fund-raising drive is Dec. 31 and to date, \$27,700 has been collected, approximately 37 percent of the \$75,000 the foundation is seeking to raise from local business and industries.

The money will be used to help meet the costs of a vocational training building slated for construction on WPCC campus beginning in June

1983.

Although Patton admitted that the foundation would continue to collect monies until the goal is reached, the true deadline is the end of December.

"We really want to close out the drive by the end of this month," said Patton. "We will accept pledges, stocks, or direct money. We can even establish a pledge program which extends over a two- or three-year period. But we want to get it all set up by the end of the year."

Thus far, the largest contribution to the foundation for the vocational project has been from Huffman-Cornwell Foundation in the amount of \$4,000.

"There are still a lot of people we have not heard from," said Patton. "Our major thrust has been to industries, building associations, banks, and other financial institutions—

places which would benefit from the existence of a vocational school and the jobs it will create," he said. "But we are also interested in the support that individuals want to give."

The monies being generated by the foundation will supplement \$100,000 of federal revenue sharing monies which Burke County Commissioners have pledged to the project and will ensure that the building is completed and fully equipped, said Patton.

"The request to raise the additional \$75,000 needed for the building came first to the Board of Trustees, then the board brought it to the foundation, which is essentially an arm of the board," said Patton.

"The foundation provides a means of gathering funds from the private



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College officials on site of new building.

Morganton, N.C., Tuesday afternoon, December 14, 1982

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sector when there isn't any additional tax money available to the college," he said.

The drive for raising the vocational building funds was kicked off with a breakfast in the latter part of October.

Since that date, a two-fold solicitation effort has been implemented in the community.

"We have done direct solicitation in which members of the foundation were assigned names of prime candidates to contact and we have done mail solicitation, sending out about 200 letters to individuals and businesses," said Patton.

According to Patton, the plans for the new building have been drawn in full detail and construction bids for the project will be taken in June.

The facility will be a shop and laboratory with six areas for instruction in hydraulics and pneumatics; electric-

ity and electronics; sheet metal, heating and air conditioning; carpentry and light construction; expansion of welding facilities; and general shop.

The Vocational Skills Center Building, as it will be called, will contain approximately 8,300 square feet and will be attached to the west side of "F" Vocational Building. It will be a prefabricated steel structure, faced with brick which matches the exterior of "F" building.