

WPCC graduation scheduled Friday

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Western Piedmont Community College will graduate 153 students and 30 summer graduates in ceremonies Friday at 7:30 p.m.

C. James Mack, vice president and general manager of Southern Devices Inc. in Morganton, will speak in outdoor ceremonies at the college.

In case of rain, the graduation will be held in the Freedom High School gym.

Mack, a Morganton resident for four years, was chairman of the 1981 United Way campaign and is president of the 1982 campaign. He is chairman of the congressional action committee of the Burke County Chamber of Commerce and is a director of both the Phoenix Homes for youth and the Western Piedmont Foundation. He is a member of Catawba Valley Lodge No. 217 of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

A veteran of World War II and the Korean conflict, he is a retired colonel in the Corps of Engineers.

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Forty-two Western Piedmont Community College nursing graduates will receive their nursing pins at the annual pinning ceremony today at 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Mor-



C. James Mack

ganton.

Beverly Craig, an officer in the Association of North Carolina Deans and Directors of Baccalaureate in Nursing Programs, will be the speaker for the ceremony. She is also a member of the board of trustees of Hickory Memorial Hospital. Her address will be "Nursing: Caring and Nurturing."

Better economic times near, industry leader tells grads

★ From page one

spring, saying the job market is about to improve.

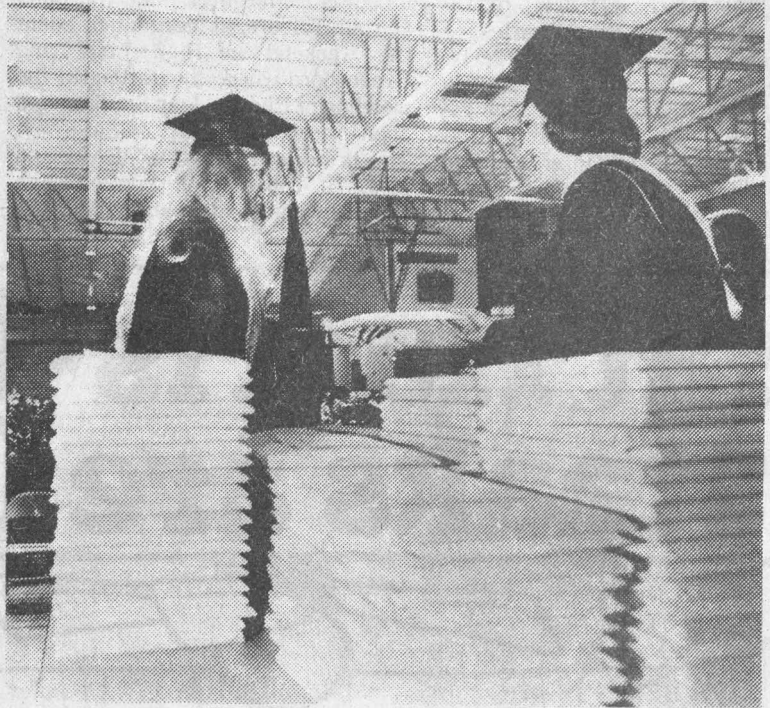
"The thinking of the business community is that the American economy is now on the way out and on the way up out of this downturn," Mack told the graduates.

The Southern Devices head pointed to recent increases in stock purchases, business travel, auto rentals, increased sales jobs, office building construction, building permits and non-agricultural business jobs as indications that the recession is about to end.

Meanwhile, the consumer price index and mortgage rates are down, Mack added.

Southern Devices, an electrical parts firm which has a plant in Morganton, last fall started a statistical quality control course from WPCC at the plant for employees. Later, an industrial psychology class was started. In his commencement address, Mack pointed to the courses as examples of moves by industry to utilize "the power of people" to improve American business.

"Our employees must be educated to understand the American tradition and positive values to our people, of the American way of business," Mack explained. "There is a spiritual reawakening of businessmen to their fundamental responsibilities to God and their fellow men. Call it ethics, religion, or whatever, but establishing better human relations is truly the intent of modern management today."



WPCC student Sherri Lynn Buff (left) receives her degree from Billie Meeks, student services dean, during commencement ceremonies Friday night. (Staff photo by Mark Phillips)

"Will quality improve?" Mack added. "You can bet on it." With 45 people taking college courses aimed at improved productivity, and a goal of 400 employees set, Mack said that inventory accuracy at Southern Devices improved from 33 percent to over 95 percent. Assembly-line production rose by 10 percent because of

better planning, he added.

"People deserve to be put first every business consideration," Mack added.

The Southern Devices head concluded by encouraging the new graduates to "smile, be cheerful, be earnest."