

WPCC denied federal grant

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Western Piedmont Community College will not get a \$1.2 million federal grant for new programs.

College officials today said WPCC was turned down by the U.S. Department of Education for a five-year Title III development grant.

The grant was to fund a branch campus in eastern Burke County, start a computer system for instruction and fund other staff development programs.

College officials said they still will try to start some courses in eastern Burke in the fall on a reduced scale. An administrative staff meeting is scheduled for next week to begin study of the program.

The college was given a computer in May, alleviating some of the need for the grant. Officials said other college funds will be used to operate the computer, including hiring a computer programmer.

Nancy Moore, vice president for institutional development at WPCC, said an official with the federal education department revealed the denial of the grant Thursday in Washington.

"We're disappointed, but there will be some things we will be able to start anyway," she said. "But we will not be able to do them to the extent that we would have done with the grant."

The WPCC official said 15 community colleges in North Carolina received grants, including Caldwell and Wilkes community colleges. Although no specific reason for the denial of WPCC's grant was given, Dr. Moore said the point system used to rank grant applications did not give the WPCC grant a priority high enough to be accepted. "The competition was keen," she said.

WPCC officials will discuss its refused grant application with education department officials in the coming year and perhaps apply for a grant again next year, Dr. Moore added.

The college has received smaller

one-year Title III grants in each of the last three years. Those grants totaled \$417,000.

The Title III program is not among education programs drastically reduced by the Reagan Administration, Dr. Moore added.

The grant application included six projects. Among them was a \$204,619 request to rent space for an eastern Burke satellite campus, where the college would offer both degree and remedial classes, library services and educational and career counseling.

Although the college still may begin some classes in the fall, Dr. Moore said other services may be delayed.

The college this month started a satellite campus in downtown Morganton for non-credit Continuing Education and remedial classes.

The grant also requested \$100,185 to teach faculty how to use computers in their classes and to make a survey of area businesses and industries on how computers are used in the working world.

The other programs requested were: training for the college's planning department; information management system training with computers for college staff; developing an integrated learning assistance program, including a new interdisciplinary course in humanities, developing language arts materials for deaf students, and educational training for faculty and staff; and a management improvement program for top administrators.

College officials also announced that WPCC has been awarded a \$3.17 million operating budget by the state for the coming academic year. The new budget represents a 3 percent increase from last year's \$3.09 million budget. But the budget will be tight, college officials said, because it was based on the 1980-81 enrollment, and enrollment has increased since then.

The county has granted \$553,301 to the college for 1982-83.

No education programs will be changed by the new budget, college officials said.