

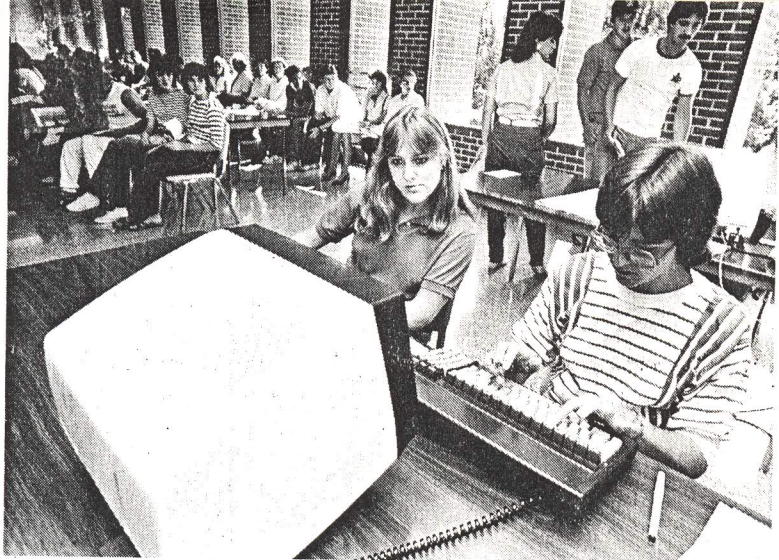


Photo by Chuck Liddy

Connie Kayga and Susie Powell at registration terminal

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WPCC has computer registration

By MARIE PARKHURST
News Herald Staff Writer

Students registering for the fall quarter at Western Piedmont Community College this week are the first in the state community college system to use a computer registration system.

The college has been selected by the N.C. Department of Community Colleges (NCDCC) as one of three test sites for computerized student registration. And WPCC is the first to try the new system which was approved for purchase in July.

The PRIME 2250 system is one

approved by NCDCC after community colleges across the state approached the department for assistance in determining the best system for community college needs.

After two years of deliberation and study, the decision was made to go with Prime Computer Co. for hardware and with Fulcrum of Raleigh for software, or programs, according to Larry Clark, director of planning and development at the college.

Rights to the program, entitled "Educator," were purchased from Fulcrum by the state department of community colleges — a move which reserves the right for all

state community colleges to use the program.

The program for business office applications is being used at one of the test sites this quarter, and the program for continuing education will be tested at the third site during winter quarter, according to Clark.

"Following the initial test, WPCC will consider several new student registration procedures, including an early registration for returning students or an open registration system which will permit students to register for classes at any time following the publication

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of the next quarter's schedule," Clark said.

Mark Hawes, a returning student who observed the computerized registration procedure Tuesday said the registration process moved a "little slower" this quarter than before, but speculated "When they get it going things will go faster."

Clark said the ultimate goal for WPCC will be to allow students to register for classes at any time following publication of the next quarter's schedule, but the actual

registration process selected will be decided on by NCDCC.

Operating the computers at the college during registration Tuesday were Barbara Jones, Francina Tate, Linda Dale, Susie Powell and Lenada Williams.

Robert Small, business manager, has been in charge of the project, working closely with Jim Burnett, registrar, according to Clark, and along with campus electrician, James Huffman, "they worked a small miracle by installing the system in six weeks."

Notification that WPCC would be the test site came late in July.