

WPCC hits fund-raising goal

By JOHN McCURRY
Assistant News Editor

After 14 months of fund raising, Western Piedmont Community College's Blueprint for Progress Campaign reached its goal Wednesday of \$4 million to construct the college's new learning resource center.



A donation of an undisclosed amount by Georgia Carpets of Morganton on Wednesday morning pushed the effort over the top, according to WPCC President Jim Richardson.

"We're appreciative of the broad support of the community and the leadership of Frank Patton (a college trustee who chaired the campaign) who has conducted our last two capital fund drives," Richardson said.

"I also want to thank Sam Avery (WPCC director of resource development who led the drive for the college). He came here a little over a year ago with no previous fund raising experience, and he did an excellent job."

Richardson also praised area legislators for their efforts in obtaining funds for the project.

The campaign, which officially

began on Dec. 1, 1986, netted \$1,250,000 of the \$4 million project which will be added to the \$2,750,000 allocated by the N.C. General Assembly over the last several years.

The college was assisted in its efforts by Institutional Development Associates, a Salisbury firm which specializes in raising funds for educational institutions.

The college paid the firm \$60,000 plus expenses which ranged between \$400 and \$700 per month for a 12-month period, according to Ken Clark, WPCC vice president for administrative services.

No date for a groundbreaking has been set, but Richardson said he hopes to announce a timetable for the project within the next six weeks.

"We're still open for pledges and contributions," said Patton. "We'll be needing equipment for the building, and we will welcome more contributions."

More than \$300,000 in pledges have already been collected with the remainder to come in during the next three years, Richardson said.

More than 200 volunteers assisted the effort and will be honored during a "victory celebration" slated Feb. 5 at the National Guard Armory in Morganton.

Avery credited the volunteers with making the effort a success.

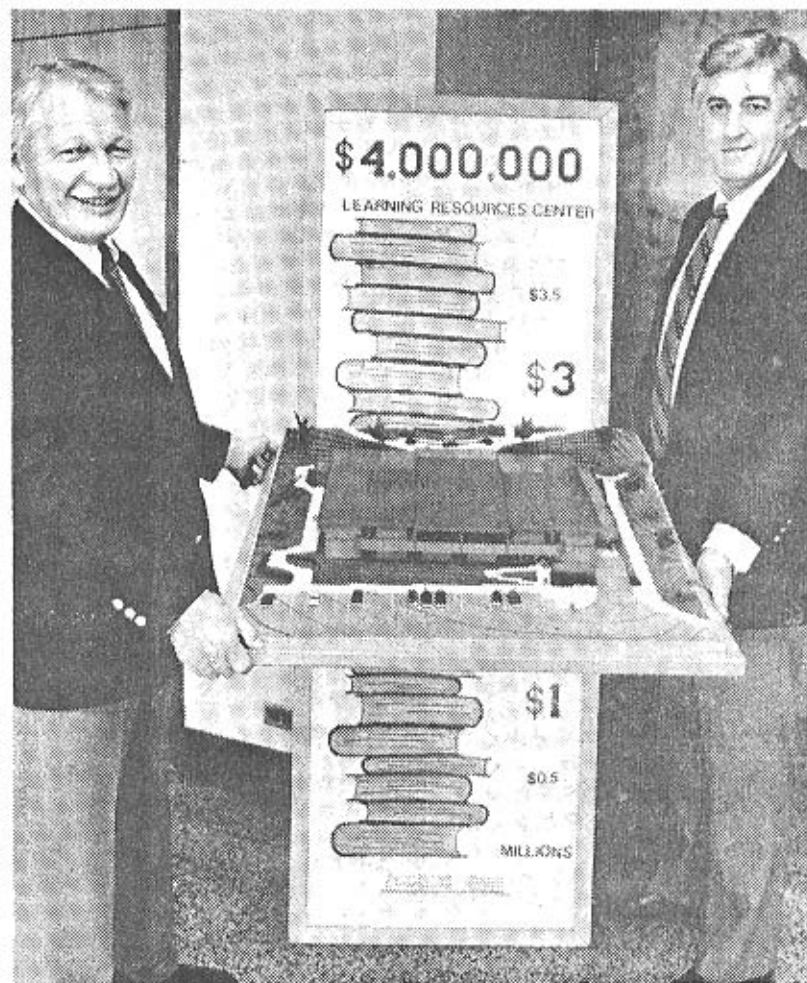


Photo by Alan Marler

College reaches fund goal

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"It's very satisfying to know how much WPCC is appreciated in the community," Avery said. "We couldn't have done it without the help of our volunteers."

Avery said the pledges came from a variety of organizations, industries and individuals. Many of the larger gifts came from industries and some individuals, but donations from volunteer fire departments, various emergency personnel, senior citizens groups, civic groups were important to the effort, he said.

A committee chaired by WPCC trustee Elsie Childers will develop recommendations for a name for the facility, Richardson said.

Other committee members are Patton, who also is a WPCC Foundation member; former trustee Mrs. E.W. Phifter Jr.; trustee J.R. Simpson; campaign volunteer John Watkins; and Tom Breeden, president of the foundation.

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Patton (left) and Richardson hold model.