

WPCC gets bids for new center

By KELLY WINTERS
News Herald Staff Writer

Western Piedmont Community College received several bids on various contracts for its proposed \$4 million learning resource center Thursday, much to the delight of college officials and others involved in the building's construction.

The year-long Blueprint for Progress campaign to raise funds for the learning center ended earlier this month with a total of \$1,250,000 million with contributions from local industries and businesses, families and individuals.

The state has earmarked \$2,750,000 for the project.



Richardson

Robert Salsbury of Robert B. Salsbury Associates P.A. Architects of Morganton said the bidding process "went great" and that he is very pleased with the bids that were received for the proposed two-level, 22,800-square-foot building.

"We took bids on six contracts: general construction, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, elevator and moveable shelving, and all of them came in under our budget," Salsbury said.

"We are required by law to have three bids for each contract and we got three or more for all contracts. Most of the contractors who bid are from North Carolina."

Jim Richardson, president of the college, said, "We are absolutely delighted that we have been able to raise the \$4 million from the General Assembly and

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from the citizens of Burke County. We are very pleased that our bids came in within that \$4 million budget. We will now be able to build a very much needed building."

Salsbury said contracts will most likely be awarded to the contractors who submitted the lowest bids. The firm will analyze the bids over the next month and then give their recommendations to the WPCC Board of

Trustees for their approval.

If approved by the board, contracts will be awarded, with work on the building scheduled to begin in late February or early March, Salsbury said.

He added that construction is expected to take 18 months.

The building will contain a library, several classrooms, a drama and audio-visual studio and several conference rooms.