

New WPCC center to honor Phifers

By KELLY WINTERS
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Western Piedmont's proposed learning resource center will be named the Phifer Learning Resource Center.

The announcement was made by WPCC officials during a party **Phifer**

Friday night held to celebrate the end of the Blueprint for Progress

fundraising campaign for the new building. The name was chosen by a special WPCC Board of Trustees committee to honor Dr. Edward W. Phifer Jr., a founder



Phifer



Mrs. Phifer

of the college and his wife, Mary who has served WPCC in several capacities, including trustee chairman.

The name will now go to the full board for approval.

Dr. Phifer was instrumental in founding the college and served as the first chairman of its board of trustees. Phifer, a prominent retired surgeon and prize-winning historian, died Feb. 19, 1980, at the age of 69 following a serious neurosurgical operation in Winston-Salem.

Mrs. Phifer continues to be actively involved with the college, serving on the college's foundation and as chairman emeritus of the board of trustees.

"I'm grateful and I appreciate the thought," she said of the announcement. "I'm sure that my husband would have appreciated it."

Construction on the new 44,600 square foot two-level learning

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resources center is scheduled to begin this spring. The much-needed building will contain a library, several classrooms, a drama and audio-visual studio and several conference rooms.

The year-long Blueprint for Progress campaign for the building ended in January, with a total

of \$1,250,000 raised locally for the \$4 million building.

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

Phifer retired from the practice of general surgery with the closing of his office in early 1979 but had continued in his longtime interest in local history. He was the author of "Burke: The History of a North Carolina County."