

WPCC trustees OK exchange program

By KELLY WINTERS
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Western Piedmont Community College Board of trustees brought the world a lot closer home Thursday after it approved a national and international exchange program for faculty.

The board also approved paid leaves of absence for eight teachers and granted extended contracts to 51 full-time faculty members during an executive session at a specially called meeting at the college.

Dr. Jim Richardson, president of WPCC, told the board that membership in the exchange program for

one year would cost \$125, with faculty members from WPCC able to go to the campuses of colleges and universities across the country and the world.

Their positions at WPCC then would be filled by teachers from the schools where WPCC faculty would be working.

The board would have the final authority in approving faculty members to participate in the exchange program.

"We feel like it could be beneficial for our teachers, to help prevent burnout, and might also help us to

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attract some minority members to Burke County," Richardson said.

The unanimous vote makes Western Piedmont the only community college in North Carolina participating in the program.