

# Trustees loan college's VP to Mayland

By JOHN McCURRY  
News Herald Staff Writer

George Fouts, executive vice president at Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton for the past three years, is leaving that post to become interim president of Mayland Technical College in Spruce Pine.

Fouts was granted a leave of absence by WPCC trustees following a special closed session this morning. His appointment is subject to approval by Mayland's board of trustees tonight.

Fouts, 39, will replace long-time Mayland president O.M. Blake, who was fired July 14 following a change in the chairmanship of the Mayland board of trustees.

Fouts will serve as Mayland's president until a replacement is found. At that time, Fouts will return to his position at Western Piedmont.

Mayland has 1,600 full-time students and serves Mitchell, Avery and Yancey counties. Based in Spruce Pine, the college also has branches in Avery and Yancey counties.

"The search for a new president will be a very important time for Mayland Technical College, and I know that George Fouts will provide effective leadership during this period," said Elsie Childres, chairwoman of the Western Piedmont trustees.

Fouts left for Mayland immediately following this morning's trustee meeting.



George Fouts

"I'm looking forward to working with Mayland's faculty and staff," Fouts said. "It's a good opportunity, and I'm appreciative of the board for granting me the leave of absence."

The move is being made at the request of former Gov. Bob Scott, who is now president of the state's community college system. Mayland trustees asked the N.C. Board of Community Colleges to make an interim appointment.

"It is gratifying that the professional development of our system's institutional leadership allows for

# *Fouts named interim president at Mayland*

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this kind of administrative assistance from one school to another," Scott said in a prepared statement. "I applaud the management style of WPCC President Jim Richardson which allows for this kind of professional development of his personnel."

Fouts' duties will be divided among the college's administrators and faculty until he returns, Richardson said.

"George is a very competent and able administrator and I am sure he will provide sound leadership to our sister institution," Richardson said.

A native of Thomasville, Fouts came to Western Piedmont in 1973 as an English and philosophy instructor. He was named the college's vice president for academic affairs in 1981 and was promoted to executive vice president in 1983.

Fouts is married to the former Sharon Embry, and they have two children.

Although the move is considered temporary, Fouts said he will move to Spruce Pine in order to be readily available to the college at all times. He said he expects to be at Mayland for five to six months.

In other action, Western Piedmont trustees announced the following faculty appointments:

- Charlie L. Jones as mathematics instructor. Jones has been associate professor in mathematics at Morehead State University in Morehead, Ky., for the past 15 years.

- Frank Wallis as instructor of manufacturing and industrial engineering. Wallis retired in 1985 as manager of the Great Lakes Carbon Corp. plant in Morganton.

- Debra R. Wilmesheer as English instructor. Mrs. Wilmesheer, who is scheduled to receive a master's degree in speech and interpretation of literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in September, has been a part-time instructor at Mayland Technical College since 1985.