

A Quarter-Century For Colleges

By BILL CHAPMAN

Staff Writer

HUDSON — There's a silver gleam in the eyes of two Unifour community colleges.

This weekend, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute in Hudson and Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton celebrate their 25th anniversaries — a time of looking back and looking forward.

On April 2, 1964, each institution received its charter from North Carolina.

"The college started in temporary buildings in Lenoir before we developed the facilities here in 1970," said CCC&TI's current president, Eric McKeithan. "The first site was in the old Davenport College, and then the school moved to the Dula Town School."

The school began as a technical institute opening for its first class in 1965. Ten to 12 students studied adult basic education.

Today, 2,600 students are enrolled in more than 50 programs.

"We are experiencing all-time record enrollment," McKeithan said. "For four quarters in a row, each has been a record compared to the previous quarter. We believe it's the quality of our programs."

Western Piedmont Community College also experienced tremendous growth since it began in the old Central Elementary School in Morganton.

"Our first course was continuing education in 1965," said Sarah Garrison, coordinator of WPCC's public information. "The first full-time curriculum classes began with 417 students in 1966."

The college bought land west of Morganton and built an administration building and four classrooms in 1969.

Now more 2,500 students study in 71 programs in 10 buildings.

Currently, WPCC is building a \$4.5 million learning resources center that will house the library, audiovisual facilities and the late U.S. Sen. Sam Ervin's library.

"His family donated his home library to the college and is helping to provide funds to rebuild it exactly the way it was, in our new facility," Garrison said.

The Phifer Learning Resources Center should be completed by the



PHOTOS BY
JEFF WILLIAMS/STAFF

(Above) Students move between buildings at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute in Hudson. (Below) A learning resources center is under construction at Western Piedmont Community College.

Western Piedmont Events

Here's a list of 25th-anniversary events for Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton. For more information, contact Sarah Garrison at WPCC, 437-8688 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Birthday Celebration: Monday, 11:45 a.m., Entrance Plaza and Breezeway, 1001 Burkemont Ave., Morganton.

Lecture : "Latin American Debt: Living on Borrowed Time." 6:30 p.m., Old Burke County Courthouse, South Green Street, Morganton.

Lecture: April 10, a talk, "Arms Agreements: Too Little Too Late or Too Much Too Soon?" at 6:30 p.m., Old Burke County Courthouse, South Green Street, Morganton.

Lecture: April 17, a lecture, "China: Redefining the Revolution," at 6:30 p.m., Old Burke County Courthouse, South Green Street, Morganton.

Concert: April 22, a jazz concert by Etta Mae Baker at 6 p.m., Front Campus Lawn, 1001 Burkemont Ave., Morganton.

Golf Tournament: May 1, all day, 5th Annual Western Piedmont Foundation Classic, Mimosa Hills Country Club, Golf Course Road, Morganton.

Lecture: May 1, a lecture, "Horn of Africa: Empty Cornucopia?" at 6:30 p.m., Old Burke County Courthouse, South Green Street, Morganton.

Lecture: May 8, a lecture, "International Drug Traffic: An Unwinnable War?" at 6:30 p.m., Old Burke County Courthouse, South Green Street, Morganton.

Speech: May 11, an appearance by former Congressman Shirley Chisholm of New York at 7:15 p.m., Moore Auditorium, 1001 Burkemont Ave., Morganton.