

New task force considers future of WPCC

By LETA PARKS
News Herald Staff Writer

A new task force to study Western Piedmont Community College and make plans for its future met for the first time Tuesday.

"Visions of the Future: 2001," a task force to help the college plan from now until the year 2001, met at the Holiday Inn in Morganton to organize and to hear a presentation on



Lovelace

possible topics of study.

"We're gathered here to begin creating a new vision or an extension of the vision that's already taken place," said Lou Lovelace, chairman of the task force.

Lovelace also is vice president and general manager of Southern Devices.

WPCC President Jim Richardson said the college is being asked "to open doors even wider. With the encouragement and work of this committee we can work on opening more doors."

He gave the example of deaf student Heather Foster, who has recently been denied entrance into the

school's nursing program because of her deafness.

"Given the present situation we cannot accommodate (admitting a deaf student to the nursing program), but it's the kind of thing we should be able to do," he said.

The 2001 task force members were chosen to represent geographic location, jobs and constituents served by the college, said Larry Clark, WPCC dean of planning and research.

The task force members will have committees under them, but those committee members have not been determined yet, Clark said.

Serving on the task force will be Lovelace as chairman and Betty

Ervin, who will chair a committee on student services. Ervin is a retired Burke County schoolteacher.

Ted Randolph of Morganton, a retired dean of the Baylor College of Dentistry, will be a 2001 task force member, chairing a committee on program quality.

Chairing a committee on funds and budgets will be Max Lowery, chief executive of Morganton Federal Savings and Loan Association.

Carlton Caruso, retired director of advertising for Waldensian Bakeries Inc., will head up an economic committee.

The personnel manager at Drexel

Heritage Furnishings Inc., Bill Par-ton, will chair the organization committee.

Serving as special advisor to the task force will be Howard Haworth, chairman of the State Board of Education.

WPCC representatives on the 2001 task force will be Claude S. Sitton, chairman of the college's Board of Trustees; Richardson and Clark, who will be the project coordinator.

Ed Beam, retired president of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, will serve as a consultant for the task force.

Beam helped prepare a state

study on community colleges entitled, "Gaining the Competitive Edge — the Challenge to North Carolina's Community Colleges."

The study resulted in 33 recommendations for community colleges throughout the state.

As he discussed the study, Beam said, "It's only effective to the extent that the people here think it's effective."

As the 2001 task force looks at each of the state's recommendations, members must realize "it's valid for the system but whether or not it's valid for WPCC you have to determine," Beam said.