



Bob Byrd makes keynote remarks prior to official opening of Breeden Hall on WPCC campus.

Breeden building dedicated at WPCC

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Western Piedmont Community College dedicated its new Breeden Engineering Technology Center in special noontime ceremonies on the campus Wednesday.

The new campus building is named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Breeden, major contributors to the building effort through the Western Piedmont Foundation.

A dozen classrooms with laboratory space and 10 faculty offices will be housed in the new Breeden Engineering Technology Center and the building will be put to use immediately as winter quarter classes begin at the college.

Jim A. Richardson, president of WPCC, said the new building is needed immediately due to overcrowding in classrooms and lack of adequate facility space.

"Two years ago, we faced a critical shortage of academic space," said Richardson. "In some cases we were having to teach two different classes at the same time in one classroom."

There were even times when



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Breeden stand with portraits and plaque in their honor in the new Breeden Engineering Technology Center on Wednesday. (Photos by Alan Marler)

four instructors shared one office space, Richardson said. Enrollment at Western Pied-

mont has increased 36 percent over the past 10 years, Richardson noted, making the completion of

the new engineering and technology center a must for the college's continued progress.

The fundraising effort for the new building was done through the Western Piedmont Foundation, a non-profit organization created in 1967 to encourage and develop public and private support for WPCC beyond that provided by federal, state and county funds.

Tom Breeden has been a member of the foundation since the early 1970s.

Richardson said he and WPCC are proud to have the continued support of and contributions from the Breeden family.

"The Breedens have provided funds for educational equipment, books, scholarships and for capital projects," Richardson said.

The Breedens have endowed two scholarships at the college, the Breeden Family Scholarship and the Breeden Academic Merit Scholarship.

The Breeden Family Scholarship was designed for a student enrolled in a business technology course showing academic promise.

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The Breeden Academic Merit Scholarship was designed to go to the student with the highest grade point average after his or her freshman year.

Breeden said the family's reason for donating funds for the new building came from years of contributing to the college.

"When the opportunity to do more came along," said Breeden, "we took the advantage."

The keynote speaker for the opening ceremonies was Morgan-

ton attorney Robert Byrd, a former college trustee and foundation director.

Byrd said the Breedens' generous support of the college did not surprise him because the Breeden family has always "risen to the challenge" in Burke County.

At approximately 30 years of age, Mr. Breeden "had to immediately assume the reins of running a viable and challenging corporation," Byrd said. "Tommy Breeden took the embryo of a core of a business and expanded it tremendously..."