

Byrd honored for work at Western Piedmont

Robert B. Byrd was recently awarded the 1992 Outstanding Philanthropist Award by the National Council for Resource Development for his outstanding commitment and dedication to Western Piedmont Community College.

The NCRD represents a network of 1200 community, technical and junior colleges that serve the public interest by providing access to quality higher education for millions of individuals.

A primary function of NCRD is to assist its members in the acquisition of financial resources needed to support the educational programs at their community institutions.

Byrd was one of six recipients from eight states and the only person recognized from North Carolina.

"These recipients represent the noblest part of the American character," NCRD officials said. "The fact that they care strongly enough about education in their communities to give of their time, their talent and their resources, makes a truly remarkable statement about the depth of their commitment."

Byrd has served two terms as a trustee of WPCC and four terms as a director of the Western Piedmont Foundation.

During his close association with the college, Byrd has been instrumental in securing funding for the variety of college projects such as the campus greenhouse and the Phifer Learning Resources Center, said Grady Pitts, dean of development.

Byrd has also been directly responsible for raising funds for the Burke Collegiate Scholarship Endowment Program. This programs



Robert Byrd

offers a full scholarship to WPCC for disadvantaged sixth-graders in Burke County.

Dr. David Daniel, American Association of Junior and Community Colleges Board Chairman described Byrd as a man who possesses a great love and respect for education.

"Looking back over my 20 plus years of service to higher education, I can sincerely say that I have rarely meet or heard of a private citizen who cared and gave so much of himself for the cause of education," he said.

"Mr. Byrd is an outstanding citizen. His selection as the North Carolina recipient of the NCRD 1992 Philanthropic Award reflects great credit upon Mr. Byrd and Western Piedmont Community College."

Byrd is an attorney with Byrd, Byrd, Ervin, Whisnant, McMahon & Ervin.