

WPCC raising building funds

From Staff Reports

The Board of Trustees of Western Piedmont Community College and the Board of Directors of Western Piedmont Foundation Inc. recently announced the start of a \$200,000 campaign to construct an addition to the college's science and engineering facilities.

The need for the additional building, which will connect C-Building with F-Building and J-Building, is due to the college's 36 percent enrollment increase over the past 10 years, WPCC President Jim Richardson said.

Also, Western Piedmont's Engineering Science Division has grown from four degree programs to 10 degree programs.

"In order to accommodate our current growth we must undertake this project now," Richardson said. "Program expansion and increased enrollments during the past decade have created severely crowded conditions for our engineering science students and faculty.

"The expansion of programs and faculty cannot be considered until additional laboratories and offices are constructed and remodeled," he added.

Already local businesses and industries have contributed \$80,000 toward the goal, Board of Trustees Chairman Fred Whalen said. Industries contributing include: Carolina Shoe, Dana Corporation, Drexel Heritage Furnishings and Henredon Inc.

The only source of revenue for the project is private funding, Whalen said.

"Because of the limited state and county construction funds available to the college, Western Piedmont must seek alternative funding sources to complete the project and keep pace with rising enrollments," Whalen said.

Whalen also announced that Lou Lovelace, general manager of Southern Devices and Otto Woerner, chief executive officer for Carolina Shoe, will co-chair the fund-

raising campaign for the Foundation. They will be assisted by Randall Mull, retired vice president of Drexel Knitting and John Watkins of Grandview Court, Morganton.

Identified as one of the top priorities in the college's Master Campus Plan, the Engineering Technology Center will be the focal point of the commons area in the center of the campus, and an integral part of Western Piedmont's educational program in science and engineering.

The new construction and reno-

vation planned with provide a dedicated area of more than 19,000 square feet. Laboratories, classrooms and faculty office will be housed there and will significantly expand learning opportunities for science and engineering students, college officials said.

Construction of the new facilities and remodeling of the existing structures will begin in November. The facility should be open and ready for the summer quarter in Spring 1994, Foundation Executive Director Grady Pitts said.