

White named Woman of Year

By EDNA MAE HERMAN
Community Living Editor

Louise White, who has a 21 year tenure as instructor of English at Western Piedmont Community College, has been selected as the Burke County Woman of the Year for 1996.

She will be honored at the Woman of the Year banquet to be held on Oct. 22 at the Community House. Speakers will be selected by the recipient and will be announced later.

The Burke County Woman of the Year is presented annually by the Morganton Business and Professional Women's Club. She is chosen by a non-BPW committee from nominations from various organizations and individuals.

Selection is based on her outstanding career achievements, assistance to other women in their advancement, guidance to youth and young women and community service of all types. The recipient must be a working woman living in Burke County and be employed full-time in her profession.



Louise White

"I, of course, am richly honored by the award," White said in commenting on receiving the award. "I have lived in Burke County for 21 years and have seen the other award winners. It honors me to be among that group. The work I have done for which I was nominated has been a great challenge and this recognition for that work will always mean

a great deal to me."

White chaired the English Department at WPCC for 10 years. Because of her reputation as an educator, she was selected as one of two reengineering consultants as the North Carolina Community College System converts from a quarter to a semester system.

"This task has been Herculean, and Louise has once again displayed an impressive command of a complex topic, excellent research and leadership skills, and a dogged determination to see this project through to successful completion," one letter of nomination stated. "She has given generously of her gifts of wit, intelligence, diligent hard work, music, and sense of humor to students, colleagues, and friends."

She wrote the federally funded Talent Search Grant and has served as president of the North Carolina Conference of English Instructors. She has served the Southeastern Conference of English in the two-year college as treasurer, member-

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ship chairman, and is currently vice president of this professional organization. She also is a member of the North Carolina Association of Developmental Studies.

White has made numerous conference presentations for each organization at various annual meetings.

Her contributions to the community include having taught thousands of Burke County young people and adults and helping them to become contributing citizens to all of their communities.

She participates in Women's History Month activities at Western Piedmont Community College and the majority of her students are women.

As for a woman's place in the business world, White said, "I see women owning, operating, and staffing business (and industries and service organizations) in this and every other community in America. This is as it should be."

For a young woman just starting out in her career, she said, "She should develop a supportive, personal-professional network, always be honest to herself and others. Listen."

White said women can contribute most to the communities "by being hardworking, competent contributors in every sphere they're involved in."

White has served on numerous standing college committees at Western Piedmont Community College, at all officer levels, and has served on numerous "ad hoc" committees at the college.

A resident of Morganton, she graduated from Concord High School, received a B.A. in English from St. Andrews College at Laurinburg and an M.A. in English from East Carolina University at Greenville. She also has an EdS in curriculum instruction from Western Carolina University at Cullowhee.

She has been an English instructor at Western Piedmont since

1975.

Tickets for the Woman of the Year banquet are \$10 each and may be purchased at The News Herald, Bellas & Bellas law office 433-1012, Nancy Martin 438-2844, First Citizens Bank, and Nations-