

# Western Piedmont relief efforts impressive

Western Piedmont Community College responded to those who have been devastated in eastern North Carolina by flooding from Hurricane Floyd.

On Sept. 20, Martin Lancaster, president of the North Carolina Community College System, challenged all community colleges to participate in a statewide campaign to assist the victims of Hurricane Floyd.

More than a dozen community colleges in the flood ravaged areas were damaged to some degree, and many served as distribution centers and temporary housing for families driven from their homes by the rising flood waters following the storm.

Prior to receiving the directive from the system president, the faculty and staff at Western Piedmont Community College met to determine what they could do to help colleagues in eastern North Carolina. They appointed a task force and within 24 hours of the disaster, the group, spearheaded by Executive Vice President Richard N. Greene, developed a plan of action.

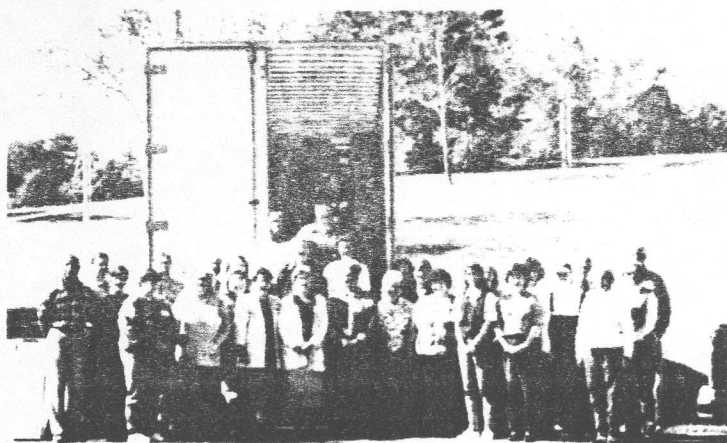
The group distributed flyers to local businesses, industries and schools encouraging them to join in the effort. Four Truckers of Morganton donated the use of a 53-foot tractor trailer truck, and beginning on Sept. 23, faculty, staff, administration and students of WPCC volunteered their time at the collection site in the tennis court parking lot.

Packaging Corporation of America provided boxes and packing supplies, Piedmont Housing supplied a step platform to aid in loading the truck, Valley Rental donated a gazebo tent, and Cooper Broadcasting publicized the effort. Perk Place and Krispy Kreme lent their savory support.

In just two days, the trailer was filled with clothing, non-perishable food items, baby supplies, cleaning supplies, kitchen and household items and personal hygiene products to send to eastern North Carolina.

Driven by an employee of Four Truckers, the truck left with the relief items on Sept. 25 bound for Edgecombe Community College in Tarboro, N.C. Officials at Edgecombe Community College indicated the truck arrived at a time when supplies were critically low.

Hearing this news, the Western Piedmont Community College Task



The staff at WPCC pose in front of one of the tractor trailers full of flood relief supplies they gathered to send east.

## TO HELP

- Phi Theta Kappa has adopted five Edgecombe families for Christmas. To contribute, call Robert Jackson at 438-6136.

- Purchase a Christmas tree for a family by calling Dick Hawes at 438-6175 by Monday, Nov. 29.

Force decided to implement a "Phase Two" relief effort. Local business and industry once again supported the project. Four Truckers donated a second tractor trailer truck, and for the next two weeks, from Oct. 1 to Oct. 5, college employees volunteered their time before and after regular work hours, during breaks, lunch, and on weekends to accept donated relief items at the collection site on campus.

The Burke County Public Schools joined in the effort by providing books and school supplies for school children in the hardest hit areas.

The students at Oak Hill Elementary School and Principal Susan Fetter coordinated a project with Mary Charlotte Safford, coordinator of

social sciences at WPCC and PTO president, to send "shoe boxes" filled with school items and treats for more than 500 children at one particular elementary school in Edgecombe County.

Other children in the county participated by donating their favorite toys, stuffed animals or books to children who lost everything due to the flood. Pet supplies were also donated to care for the many animals left homeless by the storm.

WPCC student clubs and organizations held fund-raisers and made monetary donations to the effort. Over \$2,900 was collected.

Along with more donated relief items including 70 gallons of paint and 84 cases of water, the second truck, filled to the brim, left for

Edgecombe Community College on Oct. 16.

The college's efforts have not stopped there. WPCC's Phi Theta Kappa has adopted five families in Edgecombe County who lost their homes and all their belongings as a result of the flooding. Students will be accepting monetary contributions and donations of new clothing, kitchen items, linens, and other household goods for the next several weeks to brighten the holiday season for these flood victims as they prepare to move into new homes. Anyone wanting to contribute, should contact Robert Jackson at 438-6136.

Locally grown Christmas trees will also be provided and may be purchased for the families for \$17 each through the science club at the college by contacting Dick Hawes at 438-6175 by Monday, Nov. 29.

The students will personally deliver the trees and household items to the families on Saturday, Dec. 18.