



Appalachian State University Chancellor Francis T. Borkowski, left, Dr. Jim Richardson, president of Western Piedmont Community College, and Dr. H. Martin Lancaster, president of the North Carolina Community College System, sign an agreement creating "The

Appalachian Learning Alliance." The goal of the 10-member alliance is to increase state residents' access to higher education and to expand learning opportunities through collaboration and a variety of outreach initiatives. (Photo contributed)

ASU creates alliance with community colleges

Appalachian State University and nine North Carolina community colleges have announced an alliance created to increase access to higher education in the state and to expand learning opportunities through collaboration and a variety of outreach initiatives.

Members of "The Appalachian Learning Alliance" will share technology, libraries, faculty and other educational resources as appropriate to deliver learning programs and courses to a wider range of traditional and non-traditional students. It will primarily serve a 16-county region extending from Winston-Salem to Marion and from the Virginia border to South Carolina.

The alliance was formalized at a meeting preceding a conference of NC community college trustees April 29 in Greensboro.

"The Appalachian Learning Alliance has the potential to add

programs, which could be introduced as early as during the next academic year, according to Borkowski.

"Given the state's pressing need for additional education administrators and classroom teachers, we anticipate initial pilot programs to focus on those disciplines," he said.

Dr. James M. Reeves, retired president of Surry Community College, has been named executive coordinator for the alliance. His duties will include promot-

ing and developing learning initiatives involving alliance members.

In addition to Appalachian State, alliance members are Caldwell Community College, Catawba Valley Community College, Cleveland Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Isothermal Community College, Mayland Community College, Surry Community College, Western Piedmont Community College and Wilkes Community College.