

WPCC earns superior ranking

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MORGANTON — Students who graduate from Western Piedmont Community College get good jobs, make their employers happy and pass their licensing exams. Based on this performance, Western Piedmont Community College recently earned a “superior” ranking from the North Carolina Community College System.

The system reported the ranking, based on the 2001-02 academic year, in a recent report. The annual Critical Success Factors report documents each community college’s performance on a set of standards developed by the system to meet accountability requirements of the General Assembly.

“This ranking demonstrates that the funding provided to our college by Burke County and the General Assembly is a good investment that provides an unparalleled rate of return,” said Charles T. Henson, chair for the

trustees of WPCC. “This is a well-deserved recognition for the college and its students. These measures focus on how well our students perform and show how well our college serves them.”

The report results support North Carolina Community College System President H. Martin Lancaster’s comment on June 30, “The North Carolina Community College System is the most capable institution in the state to turn our economy around.”

Examples of the measures used to achieve a “superior” ranking include:

- Employment of graduates: While the unemployment rate for the region rose in 2002, 99 percent of the college’s 2001 graduates were employed within one year of graduation.

- Employer satisfaction with graduates: 100 percent of the employers surveyed were

satisfied with the quality of the WPCC graduates they employ.

- Licensure or certification exams for first-time test takers: 92 percent of test takers from WPCC received a passing score, which is higher than the statewide average of 86 percent. The college prepares students for a myriad of professions that require state licensure or certification, including nursing, emergency medical technician and basic law enforcement.

- Student satisfaction: 99 percent of students at WPCC reported being satisfied with the service they received, far beyond the 85 percent standard.

WPCC provides world-class work force training, convenient and quality education resources, support for economic development and services to the community and individuals that promote continuous learning and improve the quality of life in the region.