

WPCC plays host to conference

July 29, 2003

MORGANTON — Western Piedmont Community College was honored to play host to the Post-Secondary International Network (PIN) annual conference in Charleston, S. C., and Asheville, from June 25-July 1.

Delegates and presenters representing at least 25 institutions and five countries attended the conference, which offered opportunities for participants to explore current trends in post-secondary education and share strategies with colleagues from around the globe.

The conference showcased the North and South Carolina Community College Systems. H. Martin Lancaster, president of the North Carolina Community College System and Dr. Jim Hudgins, executive director of the South Carolina Board of Technical and Comprehensive Education, addressed conference attendees.

Delegates also toured the campuses of Western Piedmont Community College and Trident Technical college.

Conference planners dedicated a large portion of the conference to topics concerning the valuable role of community colleges

in economic development.

"For some time our college has recognized that technological advances enable community colleges to literally 'open doors' to students, programs and sharing educational strategies from all over the world," according to Charles T. Henson, chair for the trustees of WPCC. "We also recognize that while technology may be the mechanism for connecting our college with the world, it will never replace the benefits of making human connections with our global neighbors."

Individuals affiliated with WPCC made several presentations at the conference. Dr. Jim Burnett, vice president for academic affairs, and Fred J. Whalen, trustee, partnered with Tom Fisher, director of Extension and Distance Education, from Appalachian State University to describe the "Appalachian Learning Alliance: A Model for connecting Two-Year and Four-Year Colleges to Meet Community Needs."

Cynthia H. Callaway, vice president for Institutional Advancement, presented "Funding Educational Excellence," which discussed methods for developing addition-

al revenue resources for technical and community colleges.

In addition to presentations made by WPCC, presidents from other North Carolina community colleges contributed their expertise to the conference.

Dr. Katherine M. Johnson, president of Nash Community College, offered a session titled "Leadership Development and Challenges" and Dr. Tony Zeiss, president of Central Piedmont Community College, shared "Workforce Development Innovation."

The purpose of PIN is to improve and expand the ways technical and community colleges serve their own communities.

The goals of PIN are to provide an international forum for studying critical issues that affect post-secondary education, to facilitate communication among areas of administration, curriculum, instructional methods, faculty, staff and student services; and to improve curricula so that it prepares students to live in a global society.