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LOCAL

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WPCC students win award at spring show

Western Piedmont Community College students won an award for their garden space entry at the Southern Spring Home & Garden Show.

The college's garden, Birds Do It, Bees Do It...Let's Fall in Love, inspired by a Cole Porter song, received the American Horticultural Society Environmental Award.

Given by the American Horticultural Society, the award recognizes the recipient for horticulture excellence as well as the demonstration of the bond and best example between horticulture and the environment. The designation is also awarded based on the best demonstration of skillful design that demonstrates environmental stewardship in the garden.

The college's garden design features an authentic 1940s vintage-inspired backyard garden with herbs; a spring vegetable garden; heirloom apples; edible landscaping; traditional garden shrubs like flowering quince, bridal wreath spirea, and forsythia; a beehive; purple martin birdhouse gourds; a small chicken coop with live heritage breed Chan-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured is the WPCC students' award-winning display.

tecler chickens; wooden rain barrel, and flag stone patio. The garden includes a house facade of rough-cut board and batten siding, as well as a pressed tin roof and laurel fence, all typical of 1940s western North Carolina farmsteads.

Led by sustainable agriculture and horticulture instructors Chip Hope and Meagan Roberts, many faculty,

staff and students from sustainable agriculture, horticulture, building construction, welding, professional crafts clay and professional crafts wood programs helped create the award-winning garden entry.

The garden is unique because the majority of its components was grown or produced by Western Piedmont students, faculty and staff.