

WPCC Is Awarded Full Accreditation

College Receives Approval

Full Status Earned In Shortest Possible Time For New School

Christmas has come early to the students, faculty and trustees of Western Piedmont Community College.

The announcement was made yesterday afternoon that Western Piedmont has been awarded full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, a professional association of educational institutions.

There are approximately 300 senior colleges and universities and 150 junior and community colleges in the Association.

A number of faculty and staff members of Western Piedmont Community College, headed by President Gordon C. Blank, were in Atlanta, Ga. to receive the decision of the accrediting organization at its annual meeting.

Accreditation comes at the earliest possible date for the Burke County institution which began full operation in the fall of 1966. Western Piedmont graduated its first two - year degree class in the summer of 1968 and has become accredited within the least amount of time that is permissible under the regulations of the Southern Association.

In keeping with Western Piedmont Community College's desire to provide quality education for the community it serves, the college made the initial step toward becoming a fully accredited institution prior to beginning full operation when it applied for correspondence status with the Southern Association.

With the goal of taking its place among other quality education institutions in the South, Western Piedmont has worked toward meeting the standards of the College Delegate Assembly of the association.

The standards relate to all phases of the college's operation and activities. They cover institutional purposes, organization, administration, educational programs, financial resources, faculty competence, library, student personnel, facilities, equipment and research categories of evaluation.

By April 1967, Western Piedmont had completed a status study covering various aspects of the standards and received a survey team from the Southern Association.

The three-man team filed its evaluation with the Association Commission on Candidates for Membership at its annual meeting. The following December, Western Piedmont was awarded candidate for membership status which meant that the college was progressing appropriately in its quest for full accreditation.

WPCC Is Accredited

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Near the end of the college's second year of operation in May 1968, a seven-member team of educators representing the Southern Association paid a four-day visit to the college for the purpose of evaluating how well Western Piedmont met the Southern Association Standards.

A major status study by members of the college faculty and staff was completed prior to the arrival of the evaluation team.

Meeting the standards is not all that is required of an insti-

tution. Major consideration is also given to the total effort of the institution and the atmosphere in which it is carried out. The report of the evaluation team was reviewed by the Commission on Colleges and the Committee on Admissions of the Association.

Unknown to an anxious Western Piedmont Community College, both the commission and committee recommended full accreditation for the college to the Delegate Assembly of the Southern Association. The anxiety was not relieved at Western Piedmont until after action of the assembly was announced yesterday in Atlanta.

As a newly accredited institution, Western Piedmont will again undergo evaluation by the Southern Association within the next four years and every ten years thereafter to insure its continuing excellence as an institution of higher education.

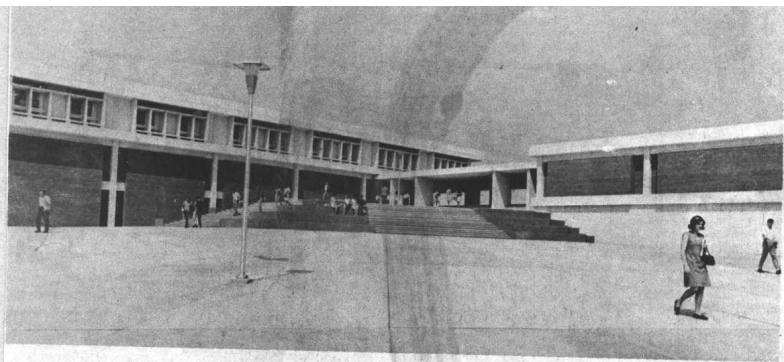
The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools was founded in 1895. The work of the association in over three-fourths of a century has been a major force in continuously upgrading

the quality of education in the South.

The delegation of faculty and staff who attended the annual meeting on December 4 at which the accreditation of the college was announced were Dr. Gordon C. Blank, president; H. D. Moritz, acting dean of instruction; Mrs. Margaret E. Fulk, head librarian; Mrs. Nancy Moore, counselor; and Prof. Robert Egner, chairman of the Humanities Department.

Dr. Blank immediately telephoned the chairman of the board of trustees, W. Stanley Moore, to inform him of the good news.

On behalf of the trustees, Moore stated, "The attainment of accreditation is a milestone in the developing history of Western Piedmont Community College. It is a symbol of recognition that an educational institution has achieved a mark of academic respectability and has demonstrated a level of program excellence which meets or exceeds rigorous educational standards. Citizens of Western North Carolina are rightfully proud that their community college has been admitted to membership. The people of Western North Carolina deserve no less than an excellent community college in their midst."



Western Piedmont Moves Into Approval Status

Full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools yesterday brought to Western Piedmont Community College national and international recognition in the form of approved status in the educational world. Accreditation came

at the earliest possible date, for a new institution is not eligible until after it has graduated its first two-year class. Here is a campus scene looking toward the plaza connecting the two main buildings. (Staff Photo by Benny Orders).



Represent College At Southern Association Meet

Five members of the staff and administration of Western Piedmont Community College attended the annual meeting of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in Atlanta where full accreditation was granted yesterday to WPCC. Attending are, left to right: Dr. Gordon C. Blank, president; Mrs. Margaret E.

Fulk, head librarian; H. D. Moretz, acting dean of instruction; Prof. Robert Egner, chairman of the Humanities Department. Attending the meeting but not present when the photo was made is Mrs. Nancy Moore, WPCC counselor. (Staff Photo by Benny Orders).



Students Happy Over Accreditation News

A group of students working in the library at Western Piedmont Community College react happily to the report from Atlanta that Western Piedmont had been fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools at its annual meeting. Some of the students

hold up their hands in the "V" for victory salute with the approved status of the college, given full accreditation at the earliest possible date for a new institution. (Staff Photo by Benny Orders).

*The Board of Trustees,
Directors of the Western Piedmont Foundation,
Faculty, Staff, and Students
of
Western Piedmont Community College
have the honor of announcing
the Accreditation of the College
by the
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools*