

Campus Happenings

STEP Program Receives Excellent Reviews from Participants

By Shirley M. Hunter
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Summer 1989 for 30 recent North Carolina high school graduates was a time for change and adjustment on the Winston-Salem State University campus.

This summer was the first trial of the university's Student Transitional Educational Program. STEP is designed to assist high school graduates who did not meet the WSSU's admission requirements because of low SAT scores or low grades.

"STEP also gives students an opportunity to make the transition from high school to college easier," said the pro-

gram's director, Tracy Hicks.

For six weeks the students were involved in rigorous study. Students attended classes from 8:30 to 3:30 p.m. and were tutored in English, Math, and Reading.

The Programmed Logic for Automated Teaching Operations (PLATO) lab at WSSU is where the students spent much time this summer. PLATO helped them to become familiar with computers and to use a variety of computer skills tests in the areas they are studying.

By attending PLATO students can improve their skills in problem areas.

Also, PLATO helped prepare the students for their placement exam that they took at the end of the session.

How did the students perform? According to English instructor Ollie McDowell, "The students did an exceptional job and no one should have difficulties with the tests."

"The program has done a lot for me and I recommend that the program continues," said STEP student Angela Parker, "It teaches you to be responsible and the best part about it is we're all on our own."

However, Maurice Jackson from Lawndale, N.C. said, "I think the program

should be shortened to four weeks because a lot of us got homesick."

"STEP has definitely been a success," said Hicks. "The outlook for STEP is a positive one," she added "and hopefully, it will increase the admissions of the students with low grades as well as SAT scores who would like to attend WSSU."

The cost for STEP was \$275. The price included a variety of extra-curricular activities such as shopping sprees, museum visits, and amusement park visits. The students purchased their own books.

When asked about costs Parker said, "We got our money's worth."

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place the trees in various locations we plan to take full advantage of it". He then added "Looking from I-40 at the back of the physical plant does not look very good, so we are considering putting trees there to enhance the less than desirable view. We want to re-design the whole area" Hodge remarked.

The new library, which is still under construction sustained minor damages and those damages have already been repaired. According to Hodge the library was insured by the contractor, but not all the buildings on campus are insured.

When asked why he replied,

"Money is not available to insure all the buildings on campus, however, they are insured by the state. All the schools are insured by the state." An assessment of the damages that each building suffered was compiled and placed in a manual.

The K.R. Williams Auditorium is

undergoing extensive repair which is believed to have been hit the hardest. Hodge stated that he is trying to limit the amount of programs taking place in the auditorium. Repairs are still underway and it will be a long time before the University will be back to normal.

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