

Since you asked. . .



Dr. Ed Wilson, Jr., WCC President welcomes Dr. Ron Federinko, President of Chattahoochee Valley State Community College and leader of the inspection team that arrives in April as part of SACS accreditation.
PHOTO: JOSEPH BROWN

By DR. JONES

Q: How has being the President of WCC made you grow personally?

A: I never really thought about that, but it is a good question. Being in this position I deal with so many kinds of people, and I really just learn about people in general.

My background started here at WCC from 1973-81. I held several different positions during that time.

Associate Vice-President for Instructional Services was the last position I held.

I worked with grants, continuing education, and other curriculums; then I left to become President of Roanoke-Chowan, a small technical school.

Then, I was in the Department for Community Colleges for almost 10 years as Executive Vice-President.

A little over 2 years ago I came back to WCC as President.

Q: Why do you think attendance at the Student Forum was low?

A: I really don't know. There were a few people there besides myself, but in my experience of dealing with community colleges, I have found that if the students have a problem, they should know where to go to express their opinions.

We try to provide as much concern as possible, but if the students are not caring enough, then I can't do anything to fix the situation.

Q: Now that the Self-Study document is complete, how do you feel about it?

A: The document was finalized around the first of the year, so that represents 2 years of hard work on the part of the faculty and staff in terms of studying the institution and comparing it to the criteria of the Southern Association.

The work the document took I feel is a good thing because the staff and faculty made a close study of our school.

Q: How is the Global Transpark going to affect our school programs?

A: It could very well change the programs we offer depending upon the types of industry that will be recruited to the Transpark.

The kind of industry may dictate the programs we have, but that depends on what happens over there before I can predict anything.

As the Global Transpark grows and industries are added, then we will add new programs, and I am hoping it will have a positive effect.

Q: The AIDS seminar that was given here, what influence do you think it had on the school?

A: Well, I think it had a very positive impact just as the programs we have had here for several years.

The program is really more powerful now because we have people with AIDS and those dying from this disease who have family members that are involved.

Really, first hand experiences, being able to talk from their stand point is very powerful.

Hearing from the people who are directly involved or having the disease is certainly the most powerful presentation.

Dr. Hogan told me that he thought it was the best event yet because it touched more people and we try to educate about this disease and hope it will save lives because there is no cure.

Q: Since you were unable to attend the Dr. King event, tell me your views about it.

A: I was pleased we had good attendance at the event; in fact, many activities are going on in February.

They are human relations activities which I hope will have a good attendance.

I'm hoping more people will attend to understand more about different cultures.

Q: During the next 15 years after the completion of the new buildings, what do you think will be the impact on the number of students?

A: We should be able to handle about 3000 students because, keep in mind, we have students at night, in the daytime, on base, and some at the airport.

Certainly, that is a good number over that period of time and some of this will depend on the Global Transpark, in my opinion, because if that grows, then population will increase; therefore, our attendance can rise.

Q: The new faculty members that have been hired at WCC, how many have there been?

A: I was honestly surprised that we were able to have as great applicants as we have had, because it's really been a major problem being able to get the people with the credentials necessary to do the job.

I am really pleased with what we have been able to find, and we have found good people to replace the ones retiring.

Though we lose the experience we had, but I feel good about what is here.

Q: What does WCC need to add on to make it more successful?

A: I think we need to ferret out those new programs to provide opportunities for people; also we need to improve the quality of what we offer.

Most of our programs are technical and they change periodically, so I think our biggest challenge is for instructors to keep up with what is new and current.

That should be our major focus--to continue to improve what is good, to make programs better.

Also, we are doing a better recruitment of students into areas where we have good jobs and not enough people.

We have some areas to place people with good wages after 1 year of training.

So, recruitment of students and improving the programs are the challenges we face.