

Because you asked. . .



Judi Lachner and WCC President Dr. Edward H. Wilson, Jr., consult calendars as they plan and organize his busy schedule. PHOTO: VOICE STAFF

By REGGIE HARRIS

An interview with the president of WCC is a standard feature of the VOICE.

WHY DID THE COLLEGE DECIDE NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CIVIC CENTER EFFORT?

DR. WILSON: The Board of Trustees decided that we did not have enough land on which to put the Civic Center.

We bought 43 acres of land and the city wanted 15 acres of the prime land.

[see related story on p. 8]

ARE THERE PLANS TO TURN WCC INTO A 4-YEAR UNIVERSITY?

DR. WILSON: Absolutely, unequivocally, no. The number one reason is that the Legislature says we are a 2-year institution. And the number two reason is that 65 percent of all jobs require a 2-year education, not a 4-year.

New assistant hired

Lachner was hired as the Assistant to WCC president, Dr. Wilson.

She also helps Vice President of Academic Affairs George Fouts.

Lachner has worked in the administrative/secretarial field over 20 years. She was born in Philadelphia, PA, but she and her husband have traveled all over the U.S. with the Air Force.

SOME STUDENTS SAY THE ATTENDANCE POLICY IS TOO RIGID. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT OTHER COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES HAVE AN OPEN ATTENDANCE POLICY. DO YOU SEE WCC GOING TO OPEN ATTENDANCE?

DR. WILSON: We have a lot of students who need to discipline themselves to attend class. That was one of our biggest complaints from instructors and one of the greatest needs of employers--punctuality. What we're trying to do is help students get to class on time and participate in their learning.

HOW MANY MORE BUILDINGS ARE PROJECTED AT WCC?

DR. WILSON: Right now 5 buildings are projected: L, K, J, I, and a Continuing Education building.

In those buildings will be a gym, a child care center, and 3 classrooms.

Lachner, the mother of 2 sons now living in Omaha, enjoys arts and crafts, gourmet cooking, interior decorating, and just staying busy.

Lachner said, "I love my job, especially working with Dr. Wilson and interacting with faculty, staff, and students."

HAVE YOU HAD A LOT OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT PARKING?

DR. WILSON: Not really. I haven't had that many complaints this year at all. It seems that everybody wants to park at the front door. We're hoping to pave some parking areas close to the new buildings that will be opening during winter quarter.

Maybe that will relieve some of the parking problems. Right now we have \$600,000 set aside, and we'll start paving as soon as we get the recommendation needed at the Board of Trustees meeting on November 28.

[Note: Currently, the campus has 1,270 paved parking spaces 200 temporary spaces.]

DID THE DROP OUT RATE AT WCC GO UP AFTER HURRICANE FRAN HIT?

DR. WILSON: We think some additional students dropped out, but right now we're trying to figure out exactly how many.

[Note: Susan Penuel, Student Services, said that withdrawals from the fall quarter are higher than in the past, but she had no accurate data to support hardships resulting from Fran as the reason.]

Information specialist meets needs of visitors, students



Kay Bradley (l) relates some of her new responsibilities to Julia Patterson, WCC student. PHOTO: CHRISTI DAWSON

Long-time college employee Kay Bradley became WCC's new Information Specialist in July 1996.

Bradley had been the Executive Secretary to the Vice president of Academic Affairs for 14 years prior to assuming her new position and new location just inside the front doors near the switchboard.

Her duties reflect an effort to improve customer service: giving directions to those visiting the campus; meeting and greeting visitors; improving the flow of information on and off campus; and supervising the switchboard, often the first point of contact for those who need information.

Bradley said that she will eventually be responsible for information kiosks, monitors placed throughout the campus that convey information daily.

Born in Wilmington, NC, she has worked at WCC for 18 years. Bradley has 2 sons and a granddaughter.

She likes reading and going to the movies with her mother, a film buff.

The Voice needs you!