

Wilkes Community College Presents New and Expanded Web Site

By Sandy Sheets

According to President Gordon G. Burns, Wilkes Community College, on August 15, began sending households and businesses around the world a wealth of information including the college catalog, an interactive campus map, a searchable database of all personnel, current degree program requirements, campus news releases, and much, much more. However, the college is not worried about a large postage bill. Why? It's simple. The information is being made available via the Internet at the College's Web Site on the World Wide Web.

The College's new Web Site was designed and is maintained by Webmaster Jim Barrow, WCC's Economics instructor who also now has administrative and technical responsibility for the College's web presence. The site makes information about every aspect of the college available to anyone with access to a computer and an Internet connection.

By visiting Wilkes Community College's cyberspace home at www.wilkes.cc.nc.us, one can become acquainted with the college's entire 141 acre main campus, as well as travel 35 miles to the sites of the Ashe and Alleghany Campuses. Prospective and current students visiting the site will be informed about every aspect of WCC activities and opportunities, see a map of the campus, have access to information about each curriculum program and learn about continuing education courses, financial aid, and student support services. Visitors can see what is happening in the campus's 269,000 square feet of classroom, laboratory and office space, without leaving their chairs. The Web Site provides information on everything from course availability for every program to hours that the college bookstore is open. One can examine the college catalog, learn about a particular instructor, complete an admission application, and review college-related newspaper articles and events, all from the comfort of home or office.

At the College's site one will also find WCC's Virtual Campus. The Virtual Campus is in effect a "college

without walls," where students can do course work online without the restrictions imposed by the traditional classroom experience. Students may enroll in an available course, complete the course requirements and assignments, take examinations, and finish the course without ever physically coming on campus.

A visitor to the site can also become acquainted with college personnel, including access to biographical information on the trustees, instructors and staff. By going to the online library, one can view the list of books and media available to students or conduct research on a subject of choice. Site visitors may meet students, past and present, by visiting the alumni page. The site enables one to check out college events and student activities, as well as learn about WCC's athletic programs and opportunities.

The John A. Walker Center pages of the site give complete information on upcoming events, seating and tickets. By linking to the MerleFest section, visitors have access to a wealth of information about this world famous Americana music festival, held each spring on WCC's campus. Information includes MerleFest '99 performers, stage performance schedules, festival history, a map of the festival's site and the capability to purchase advance tickets.

In summation, if it's happening at Wilkes Community College, you can get the details at the college's Web Site. The site is continuously updated so that the information is always current and relevant. Visit the WCC web site at www.wilkes.cc.nc.us and find out what's happening at Wilkes Community College, where our campus is now the world.

