

A+ Grade For WCC

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To successfully navigate the reaffirmation process, WCC officials provided extensive documentation to demonstrate the extent of compliance with the standards the Commission on Colleges sets forth. In addition, the Commission conducted both an off-site and an on-site peer review.

A major component of the reaffirmation process is the Quality Enhancement Plan, a carefully designed and focused course of action that addresses a well-defined issue or issues directly related to improving student learning. WCC's Quality Enhancement Plan is titled "Embracing Critical Thinking Throughout the College Community" and focuses on integrating critical thinking college-wide. In addition to implementing a new required course in critical thinking for students and a college-wide commitment to incorporating the elements of critical thinking in instruction and learning, WCC faculty and staff have been heavily involved in professional development throughout the course of the reaffirmation process. The goal of the QEP is for the entire college community to embrace and utilize the concept of critical thinking to enhance student learning.

Consistent with the goals of the

Principles of Accreditation of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the reaffirmation process, the college is committed to an ongoing process of continuous improvement.

Many WCC faculty and staff members have played an important role in the reaffirmation process. Dr. Dean Sprinkle, who led the reaffirmation process, has provided exemplary leadership college-wide. Belinda Smithy and Jan Huggins provided the leadership roles associated with the development and implementation of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), involving representatives from all areas of the college on the QEP Team. Blair Hancock and Chad Bledsoe were instrumental in addressing and resolving on-site committee questions in the areas of faculty credentials, general education and learning outcomes.

"Vision is where tomorrow begins, for it expresses what you and others who share the vision will be working hard to create. Since most people don't take the time to think systematically about the future, those who do, and who base their strategies and actions on their visions, have inordinate power to shame the future"

-Burt Namus

Superior Status For WCC

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labeled "Core Indicators of Success" because they capture the essential elements of the mission of community colleges in NC. The "Core Indicators of Success" focus primarily on student success and serve as the system's major public accountability tool.

WCC met or significantly improved on 11 of the 12 areas evaluated. To achieve "Superior Status" a college must meet or exceed the standard on five of six designated performance measures.

The most recent report, which is based upon the 2004/2005 academic year, found:

~100% of WCC students labeled as "completers"

report meeting their goal for attending a community college.

~99.7% of WCC graduates were employed within one year of completing their studies.

~99.7% of "completers" are satisfied with their program.

~94% of employers are satisfied with the quality of program completers.

WCC also met standards in the areas of student progress, satisfaction and success; employment rates of graduates; employer satisfaction and enrollment.

Cougar Cry

Editorial Guidelines and Staff

The Cougar Cry is a publication of the student activities office of Wilkes Community College. Its objective is to keep the students of WCC informed of issues, interests, and events related to campus and academic life. The Cougar Cry does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the faculty and/or staff of WCC.

The Cougar Cry welcomes articles, stories, opinions, photographs, and artwork for publication consideration. However, everything that is received cannot be published and the right is reserved to reject any material with or without cause.

The Cougar Cry will be published as staffing and resources permit. All submissions must include the author's name, phone number, and email address. Constructive criticism is acceptable, while defamation of individuals or organizations is not; no material which defames or insults any individual or group will be published. Opinions, editorials, or viewpoints should be clearly labeled as such. Material that is obscene, libelous, not in keeping with local standards of decency, or disruptive to the instructional or administrative process will not be published.

All submissions must be in

accordance with the above stated objective: namely, they should be of specific relevance to WCC students. The staff reserves the right to edit for size, content, grammar, spelling, typographical errors, good taste, and civility. Once an article has been revised, it will be reviewed with the author before it is published. Articles without time sensitive content that are received near publication deadlines may be published in later editions because of time and/or space restrictions.

It is strongly recommended that the author have her/his submission edited for grammar and style before it is submitted to the Cougar Cry. It is the author's responsibility to ensure the accuracy and spelling of names, program names, abbreviations, logos, etc. Copyrighted material will not be used without written permission of the copyright owner.

To submit an article to the Cougar Cry please send email to wcc.newspaper@wilkescc.edu with the article attached in word format.

Cougar Cry summer staff: Amber Arnder- Desktop Editor/Graphic Designer, Loni Miller- Desktop Editor/Graphic Designer Scott Johnson-Advisor, Chad Treadway- Advisor.

Tabloid Designers

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the cover design for the fall tabloid. Response to the student designs was so positive that two covers were ultimately picked. Minton's design was chosen for the fall tabloid and Loni Miller, another second-year graphics student, created a design that was chosen for the spring 2007 tabloid cover. Loni, who in addition to being a student is a work-study for graphics instructor Brian Barker, incorporated a photo she made on the campus of WCC.

All of the student's designs were viewed by several faculty members and were warmly received. The faculty agreed that the quality of the designs reflected the strong design abilities and talents of WCC graphics students.

This project is currently ongoing, with student designs to be consistently featured on tabloid covers as well as future opportunities for student designs being incorporated in the college catalog, brochures, pamphlets and other promotional materials.

For more information on the Graphic Design Program, please contact Brian Barker, Lead Instructor at: 838-6410 or email at brian.barker@wilkescc.edu



Photo of Adam Minton Designer of the Fall Tabloid

"Bliss and joy come in moments of living our highest truth - moments when what we do is consistent with our archetypal depths. It's when we are most authentic and trusting, and feel that whatever we are doing, which can be quite ordinary, is nonetheless sacred."

-Jean Shinoda Bolen

College Calendar

First Day of Class.....	August 16
Late Registration Ends.....	August 18 (4:00 PM)
Last Day to Withdraw From a Class and Receive a Refund.....	August 25
Labor Day Holiday.....	September 4
Fall Break.....	October 9-13
Last Day to Withdraw From a Class.....	November 1
Early Registration for Spring Semester.....	November 13-17