

Blast From The Past

Daniels Inaugurated, Buildings Dedicated

(Reprinted from October 5, 1978 issue of The Cougar Cry)

The Dedication of the Technical Arts and Power Mechanics Buildings was given by Mrs. Bonnie L. Rhodes, of Wilkes Community College Board of Trustees. Mrs. Doris B. Potter introduced the Keynote speaker the Honorable Robert W. Scott.

Mrs. Rhodes formally dedicated the buildings, "...to the people and the concepts of Northwest North Carolina for their ideas and cultural needs..."

Governor Scott, now Federal Co-Chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission, cited all the impressive progress that has taken place since his first visit to the campus for the inauguration of Dr. Howard Thompson, fourteen years ago. And Scott described Dr. Thompson as "...a shaker and a mover...", whose, "determination and perseverance brought us where we are today...", adding that the Community College has, "...proven its worth..." to the people of Wilkes County.

In his speech, Scott praised Dr. Daniels as, "...a man who didn't waste any time in taking over the job as President of Wilkes Community College...". In his first year of office Dr. Daniels reactivated the Wilkes Community College Endowment Corporation, expanded the community services programs, and was determined to see that each individual in this county received their, "...privilege to an education...", as it is cited in the North Carolina Constitution.

Dr. Daniels philosophy of education was described by Governor Scott as the ability to, "...train hands as well as improve minds...". He went on to say that Dr. Daniels, "...must never lose the spirit and excitement of the earlier year days of growth and mission..." that helped the college expand to what it is today.

"I hope that you at Wilkes Community College will understand the necessity to be flexible, to meet the needs of your society and your community," was Scott's main appeal to the audience, adding in a serious tone that we should not, "...get bureaucratic process..." in expanding the future roll of Wilkes Community College, in Wilkes County.

Governor Scott likened Dr. Daniels to a man who must build a bridge. In understanding the world around him, Dr. Daniels has to dedicate his profession and career to the improvement of the condition of human-kind and build a bridge to cross over ignorance and bondage; that bridge being Wilkes Community College.

Scott said, in ending his address, that, "...Dr. Daniels will leave an imprint in the lives of many men and women..." and, "...that many times and in many places they will thank you..."

Dr. Daniels opened his response by thanking the Endowment Corporation for their active

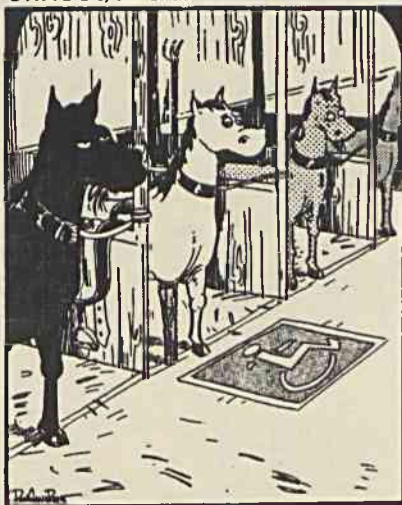
role in obtaining money for the multidirection steps that lead up to the new buildings. He also extended his thanks to the Board of Trustees for their help in the day's proceedings. Acknowledgment was given to the faculty and staff for their hard work in the past and in hopes that their dedication would continue in years to come.

A special appreciation was announced, by Dr. Daniels, to corporate people of Wilkes County for their financial assistance in helping the multidirectional stairs be built. On each level a corporation will be acknowledged by a plaque. Those corporations that were mentioned were Holly Farms Poultry Inc., the Wilkes Chamber Foundation, and Northwestern Bank.

John Vannoy and Sons were the contractors for the new Technical Arts Building and Hyatt Hammond, a member of the American Architects Institute, was the architect. In a letter to Dr. Daniels, Mr. Hammond stated that, "...your new building to be dedicated is, at best, a blessing indeed!..." Dr. Daniels added that it was a job well done.

In concluding his recognitions, Dr. Daniels expressed his gratitude to everyone in the community for, "...a meaningful experience, not the least of which, is having Governor Scott here today...". He presented Governor Scott with a one-of-a-kind chair made by the American Drew Furniture Company.

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