

## WCC Leaders

By Kella Adams

What makes an effective leader? Is good leadership vital for something or someone to be successful? WCC has very effective leaders. I have had the thrilling opportunity to spend time with the WCC president, Dr. Gordon Burns, along with the dean of instruction, Dr. Walt Plexico, the dean of development, "B". Townes, the dean of student services, Larry Caudill, and Larry's successor, Dr. Dean Sprinkle.



**Dr. Gordon Burns** is a very professional and dedicated man who is also very friendly and easy-going. Dr. Burns believes that in order to be a good leader, your group needs to reach a shared vision. Dr. Burns creates an atmosphere that makes his employees feel satisfied and fulfilled. Therefore, the staff at WCC is very productive and diligent. Furthermore, to be a great leader one also needs to have good listening skills and openly recognize people and their achievements. Dr. Burns feels it is extremely important to be your own person and let your unique personality shine through!

**"B" Townes** exudes a very gentle, peaceful, caring, and pro-active personality. Mr. Townes feels that in order to be a great leader, one needs to keep a cool head and to try to be



as stress free as possible. Mr. Townes' favorite book is written by Stephen Covey which informs its readers what 7 traits of highly effective people are. These seven traits are : to be pro-active, reach a shared vision, to prioritize, think WIN!! WIN!, think first to understand then to be understood, to synergize, to make sure one has been heard and to understand someone's paradigm. According to Mr. Townes' paradigm, another key ingredient in the recipe of leadership is to gain trust within oneself and others.



**Dr. Walt Plexico** holds a bachelors degree in psychology, a doctorate in higher education, is advisor of Rotaract, and has served 26 years in the army reserve.

The first thing Dr. Plexico stated was to "think outside of the box." He continued to state that