

Many Benefits Associated with Participating in Student Clubs

Students are making a positive investment in their future by getting involved with a student organization at WCC. WCC has 25 clubs and organizations that are available for students. These clubs provide a variety of leadership training opportunities, including planning campus-wide events, traveling to state and regional conferences, sponsoring community service activities, and organizing fundraisers. These types of activities enable students to become more connected with the college and allow them to strengthen their employment skills.

In the article, Rewards and Benefits for Community/Commuter College Student Who Participate in Campus Activities, Sutton writes, "What students learn outside the classroom in extracurricular activities enhances classroom learning and may broaden students' perspectives." Sutton also indicates that students may learn or enhance the following skills by participating in student activities.

- Leadership Development (facilitating meetings, delegating tasks, time management)
- Decision Making (critical thinking)
- Planning Skills (planning and implementing events)
- Teambuilding (compromising/reaching consensus, expressing opposing views)
- Diversity (communicating and working with a variety of people)
- Social Skills (friendships, networking)

Involvement with student clubs is invaluable. The skills listed above can help students gain a competitive advantage over other candidates for a job or scholarship! Students should not delay "checking out" what the student clubs and the overall student activities program has to offer them! Anyone wanting more information should contact Scott Johnson in the Student Services Office.

Source: Sutton, Linda H. (2004). Rewards and Benefits for Community/Commuter College Students Who Participate in Campus Activities. Programming, 38(8), 32-35.

WCC Student Clubs & Organizations

Accounting Club

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Architectural Technology Club

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Association of Information Technology Professionals

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Autobody Club

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Baptist Student Union

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Criminal Justice Club

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Culinary Club

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Dental Assisting Club

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Diesel Tech. Club

Advisor: Ricky Smith, ext. 6225
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Early Childhood Education Association

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Future Contractors of America

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Horticulture Club

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Human Service Club

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Industrial Technology & Electronics Club

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Medical Assisting Club

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National Technical Honor Society

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Southern Culture Organization (SoCO)

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Student Government Association

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"WCC Presents" Theatre

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WCC Skills USA

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WCC Earns Superior Rating from State Board

Wilkes Community College has again earned a "Superior Rating" from the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges.

The rating is a result of the Critical Success Factors Report issued by the State Board each year. 12 performance measures for accountability, called "Core Indicators of Success," capture the essential elements of the mission of the NC community college system and focus on student success. WCC met 11 of the 12 performance measures to earn the "Superior Rating" designation.

WCC President Dr. Gordon Burns was excited to share the news with the WCC family. "This distinction reinforces the work we do each day towards fulfilling our mission to provide quality education and education services to the citizens of Wilkes, Ashe, and Alleghany counties. This distinction is a reflection of the high quality students, faculty, and staff we have here at Wilkes Community College."

The performance measures that WCC met or exceeded were progress of basic skills students, goal completion for completers, employment rate of graduates, performance rate of college transfer students, passing rates in development courses, success rates of developmental students in college level courses, student satisfaction of completers and non-completers, curriculum student retention and graduation rates,

employer satisfaction, business and industry satisfaction with services provided, and program enrollment. The one measure that was not fully met was narrowly missed by one point on one student's test.

In 2006-2007, 38 of North Carolina's 58 community colleges achieved the "Superior Rating" distinctions. To earn a Superior Rating, a college must meet or exceed at least five performance measures set by the State Board and one performance measure the community college chooses. The State Board of Community Colleges reports that overall "the measures demonstrate the excellent job our community colleges do in educating and training the citizens of North Carolina."



WCC Now Offers Respiratory Therapy Program

WCC has a tradition of responding to the education and training needs of area businesses and industry. Hospitals in our region have expressed a need for qualified applicants to fill vacant positions in respiratory therapy; respiratory therapists are health professionals responsible for taking care of patients with deficiencies in abnormalities of the cardiopulmonary system. In response to this need, WCC is starting a respiratory therapy program and is enrolling its first class of respiratory therapy students for the fall 2007 semester.

Career opportunities locally and nation-wide are excellent and earning potential is competitive with other health professions. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects an increase in demand for respiratory therapists of 42.6% through 2008 due to a large increase in the elderly population, environmental impact on diseases such as asthma, increases in smoking-related illnesses, technological advances in treatment of cardiopulmonary disease, and advances in treatment of premature babies.

Graduates entering the field will find an average salary of \$40,270 a year and a minimum salary of \$32,460 a year. Salary varies with the educational degree and years of experience with supervisors, clinical specialists, and department managers tending to have higher salaries.

WCC's two-year program will prepare graduates to compose a patient assessment, perform cardiopulmonary diagnostic procedures, set up and maintain a mechanical ventilator, formulate appropriate cardiopulmonary treatment plans,

and determine and carry out appropriate interventions in a critical medical situation. Students will be involved in classes such as pharmacology, anatomy, patient management, and pediatrics. In addition to time spent in the classroom, students will gain invaluable hands-on experience by being involved in clinical practice which will take place at surrounding hospitals and medical centers.

WCC's respiratory therapy program is a limited enrollment program with first year students beginning each fall semester. Applicants to the program are ranked by a points system and those with highest points will be chosen to fill the limited openings in the program. All spaces for the fall 2007 class have been filled but new applicants can still begin the process. Interested applicants should submit a WCC admissions application and indicate respiratory therapy as the desired program of study. Placement tests and attendance in a Respiratory Therapy Application Information Session are required. A student services counselor will assist students in completing a Minimum Admissions Requirements Review

WCC's respiratory therapy program is a full-time program with classes meeting during the day, Monday- Friday, with the possibility of some weekend and evening clinical rotations. Anyone interested in finding out more about the respiratory therapy program should contact the WCC Admissions Office at 336-838-6135 or Billy Woods, Respiratory Therapy Program Director, at 336-838-6496 or billy.woods@wilkescc.edu.