

Wayne Community College Offers Excellent Nursing Program

By Rhonda Whicker
RALEIGH — Carol Caulder, Rena Mills and Mary Wright have several things in common. They are in their 30s, married and have children. But each has followed a different route toward a career in nursing. "In the community college system," says Jeanne Boykin, chairperson of nursing at Wayne Community College in Goldsboro, "we supply the road map, but our students have to make the journey." Caulder is a student in the associate degree nursing program at College of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City. Mills is in the practical nursing program at Wayne and Wright is enrolled in the nursing education option program at Wake Technical College in Raleigh. All three women are representative of students found in community college system nursing programs — to a certain extent. They tend to be older and to have more family commitments than do their counterparts in four-year college-or-

university-based programs. But it is difficult to classify community college system nursing students. They vary in age from 18 to 50, are from various ethnic and racial groups and are single or married, male or female. But most seem to share one purpose or goal — to help people. "Nursing was a lifetime dream for me," said Caulder, a mother of three who entered an associate degree nursing program this fall. "My husband is a hospital administrator and he is now studying in seminary. We hope to go into the mission field together with me as a nurse and with him as a hospital administrator." The associate degree nursing program is one of three programs in the community college system that train persons for jobs in the nursing profession. The ADN program, which takes six to eight quarters to complete, is offered at 21 institutions in the 58-campus community college system. The program trains persons to become registered

nurses. Caulder's reasons for choosing College of the Albemarle's nursing program are typical of those of prospective nurses who elect to study at a community college rather than a four-year institution. Marriage, family and expenses are major factors in the decision to go to a community college. "Cost is a factor. The education, plus the cost, is great," Caulder said. She is not alone in considering convenience and cost. Angela White, 24, who entered College of the Albemarle's ADN nursing program in the fall, said, "I have a family. I can't afford to give up four years of my life. And it's convenient." The length of the program and travel convenience are deciding factors. So is the reputation of the school. Two years ago, College of the Albemarle had the only ADN program in the state in which 100 percent of its students passed the State Board of Nursing examination. (This year four out of five schools posting 100 per cent passing rates on the state exam were institutions in the community college system.) The school credits its success on the state exam to its thorough screening procedures for admission and its tough grading standards. Wayne Community College has earned a similar reputation for its licensed practical nursing program. For the past five years, Wayne has had a 100 percent passing rate on the State Board examinations for practical nurses. In fact, the

highest and the second highest scores on the board exams in April 1981 were made by Wayne students. The length of the program, four quarters, as well as convenience of location are deciding factors for many who choose to become licensed practical nurses. There are 37 practical nurses education programs in the community college system. "I have children and I am the head of my household. I need work," Rena Mills said. "It's less of a course load (than the ADN program) and it takes less time, especially with a family to take care of." Thorman Lee, a 28-year-old male who is enrolled in the LPN program at Wayne, thinks the program will help him make up his mind. "I wanted to try the LPN first, then if I like it, go on for an associate degree in nursing," Lee said. Students at Wayne Community College say they think the faculty has a lot to do with their school's good reputation. "It's very encouraging to go to a school that has a good record," Mills said. "With their teaching and training, you will be able to pass the state boards." "The program" Lee said, "constantly adjusts to meet demands. Psychology courses and English courses have been added to broadening the base of education." Mary Wright, a 36-year-old mother and practical nurse who is enrolled in Wake Technical College's nursing education option program said, "I couldn't do it any other way. Without being able to work while finishing my education, I would not have the financial resources to finish studying

and at the same time support my family. The nursing education option program, which is offered by 17 schools in the community college system, gives students like Wright choice. Some students leave the program, after completing four quarters, as licensed practical nurses. Others may continue on in ADN program to become registered nurses. And still others who left as licensed practical nurses may elect to return later for more training to obtain associate degrees. Wright is an example of this latter group. "I had gotten to a point where I wasn't satisfied," Wright said. "I had to go back to progress." And, thanks to Wake's nursing education option program, Wright has been able to pursue her goal of more education and training while continuing to earn. Nursing students at Wake also do well on the State Board examinations. The average passing rate for Wake's practical nursing students is 98 per cent. The average passing rate for registered nursing students is 88 per cent.

Clete Horne To Be Speaker For Soybean Meeting

RALEIGH — Clete Horne, president of the Farm Credit Banks of Columbia, S. C., will be the keynote speaker for the 15th annual membership meeting of the N. C. Soybean Producers Association here on January 15, 1982, according to President Ray M. Spencer of Scranton. The meeting, to be held at the Royal Villa Motor Inn, will begin at 9:45 A. M. with

the business session of the association. Horne's address will follow at 10:45 A. M. Horne, who is a banker-attorney by profession has been associated with the four-state Columbia Banks

since 1966. He was named president of both the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank and Federal Land Bank of Columbia in late 1977. The two banks are the major agricultural credit institutions in the two

For And About Women

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Vivian Wheeler of Edenton and Herbert Carlisle of Tyner, will be united in marriage on December 20, at 2 P. M. at the Assembly of God Church. Friends and relatives are invited to attend.

Easter Seal Society Named Recipient


The Easter Seal Society of North Carolina, Inc., was named the recipient of the Seventh Annual Medders Award at the National Easter Seal Society's Annual Convention recently in Tulsa, Okla. The Medders Award, presented each year to the country's outstanding State Society, salutes management excellence over a five-year period in the areas of client services, fund raising, and community involvement. Receiving the coveted plaque from National Easter Seals President Mrs. Tom Cook, Ted Kershaw, the N. C. Executive Director, attributed the state organization's success to an excellent professional staff and dedicated board of directors. "In these trying economic times," Kershaw said, "we could not maintain our standard of services to handicapped children and adults without the heartfelt commitment of so many caring people. I gratefully accept this award on their behalf."


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