

## BCC Foundation Director Vicki Spencer Resigns Post

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick Community College's first resource development officer has resigned after nearly six years on the job to accept a position with Carolina Power & Light Co.'s Brunswick Nuclear Plant.

Today (Wednesday) is Vicki Spencer's last day at BCC, where her duties have included serving as executive director of the BCC Foundation.

"It's the longest I've ever worked anywhere," the Oak Island resident said last week after college trustees accepted her resignation. "It's really hard to leave."

She starts work Dec. 2 as a senior energy information specialist. Her responsibilities will include operating the CP&L Visitors Center at Southport, conducting plant tours and various other community relations efforts.

Ms. Spencer joined BCC's staff as development officer in 1985. One of her first tasks was successfully organizing and coordinating a community-wide campaign supporting passage of an \$8 million bond referendum for capital construction and reactivating the BCC Foundation.

Since then she has helped increase the Foundation's assets from \$45,000 to approximately \$360,000, including only the first two installments of a \$500,000 endowment to fund operation of BCC's new auditorium. The Foundation now awards between \$15,000 and \$20,000 annually in scholarships, emergency loans and other forms of student aid, as well as supporting staff development and travel and major equipment purchases.

"She has really put us on the map in the foundation business," BCC Board of Trustees Chairman David Kelly noted.

While the money raised has been essential to BCC's operation, Ms. Spencer believes the most important result of her efforts are increased visibility and credibility for BCC and its Foundation.

"People believe in us and know what we do," she said.

Her list of accomplishments during five years on the job is lengthy. Ms. Spencer has prepared or guided preparation of grant requests to support the Small Business Center, the Women's Network Center, childcare, literacy, vocational education, compensatory education, sex equity and staff development.

She chaired BCC's 10th anniversary celebration committee, initiated and coordinated annual campus and community fundraising drives on behalf of the BCC Foundation, coordinated the Foundation's annual recognition dinner and worked with the Foundation to increase its endowed scholarship fund.

Through the Foundation she also initiated an Adopt-A-Book gift program for the college library, promoted and funded staff development and training programs, established a work-study program and established scholarships for GED program graduates.

"It takes a while to get people to jell, but they've bought in now," said Ms. Spencer, looking back at the Foundation's successes. "The Foundation is at the point where it's really growing."

Upcoming major events already in the works, she said, include a songwriter's festival and golf tournament in February, a project spearheaded by Paul Dennis, who recently retired from the Foundation board.

"I'm still going to be involved, just in a different way," said Ms. Spencer. "I can't stop."



SPENCER

## TIME FOR CHANGE?

# BCC Wants New Smoking Policy That's Fair To Those Who Do—And Those Who Don't

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick Community College is looking for a campus smoking policy acceptable to both those who use tobacco and those who don't.

The existing policy, which was adopted in 1989, allows smoking only at designated areas inside buildings, including the uncarpeted dining area of the student center and some stairwells. Students also smoke at the main entrance to the classroom building, which is used by cosmetology program clients as well as BCC students and staff.

President Michael Reaves told trustees last Wednesday he believed there to be a "consensus on this campus" that BCC should become smoke-free, following the example of the county's two hospitals and public school system and several other campuses, including Craven Community College. This would mean no smoking in buildings, only in designated areas outside. "In our suggestion box we get more complaints about smoking than anything else," he said.

However, Student Government President Ken Perrone, an ex officio member of the board of trustees, said that does not appear to be the sentiment of the student body, a "large majority" of which he estimates are smokers.

Most are considerate, he suggested. When the few students known to be allergic to smoke are in the cafeteria, he said, fellow students don't smoke.

Contrary to what students may believe, Reaves said a non-smoking policy would not force students to smoke in areas unsheltered from the elements.

A committee that is to include Reaves, Perrone and other students, staff and trustees will look at the options and report back to the board. Kelly charged the panel with seeking "some middle ground" and returning with a "logical, sensible solution".

The issue sparked lively discussion among trustees, whose number includes non-smokers, smokers, several "recovering" former smokers and one member who was raised on a tobacco farm but is allergic to smoke.

Just about everyone who smoke up said they were willing to go along with any policy a majority could agree on.

"I recommend we get some more facts and figures," said Malcolm Grissett, a former smoker who is a tobacco producer. He noted the area's location in the tobacco belt, the crop's impact on the local economy and what appears to be a majority of smokers among the student body.

"I don't want us to trigger any hostility," he said. "But I would rather live in a non-smoking environment too."

However, Donna Baxter suggested the college might need to be concerned about secondary smoke and the health risks it represents.

On day 19 as a non-smoker, Ms. Baxter suggested "that those who want to breathe fresh air and live a little longer should be allowed to. Let's be fair to everybody."

Perrone described it as a "touchy situation" and recommended a formal survey of students be made to determine the ratio of smokers and non-smokers and their concerns re-

garding a smoking policy.

"There are a lot of health risks involved here," said Jimmy Hobbs, who grew up on a Columbus County tobacco farm but is allergic to tobacco. "At some point we're probably going to have to take a stand and there may not be a middle ground we can take."

Staff, students and trustees agree that most student smoking takes place in the cafeteria, making it "the most difficult area to deal with" because the ventilation system would make a partition ineffective.

Perrone suggested that the game room, which is not connected to the ventilation system, could be turned into a non-smokers area.

"Maybe our goal should not be to make people quit smoking," suggested Reaves, "but to have better control over where they smoke."

"We're trying to be fair to both those who do smoke and those who don't."

### Other Business

In other business trustees:

■ Decided to close the campus from Dec. 23 through Jan. 1, though employees will have an option of working or taking annual leave Dec. 30 and 31;

■ Canceled the December board meeting, with plans to call a meeting if the need arises;

■ Heard from Perrone that the SGA has turned the TV room into a food and clothes closet to meet students' emergency needs. "They may be getting outside assistance but there are emergency needs. We are getting a lot of response," he said. "There's always somebody here and we want to take care of our own." Requests

for assistance are handled confidentially through the student aid office. The SGA is also providing \$100 to help needy students buy Christmas presents and will give away a holiday turkey.

■ Heard from Vicki Spencer, resource development officer, that Brunswick Intergency Program is receiving a \$50,000 grant to expand its supported employment program.

■ Also heard from Ms. Spencer that a \$10,000 gift from Frances Stone of Shallotte has endowed a scholarship in honor of her late husband, Henry Clarence Stone, a former superintendent of the Brunswick County Schools.

■ Heard from Reaves that the college plans to begin filling several positions after the first of the year. They include a manager to start booking events in the new auditorium.

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