

WCC Current

The Community Newsletter of Wytheville Community College

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Fall 2014

President Charlie White announces plan to retire in 2015

Dr. Charlie White, who has served as the President of Wytheville Community College since May of 2006, announced his intention to retire to faculty and staff at a recent beginning-of-term meeting held at the college.

White's retirement will become effective June 30, 2015. He has been employed in various positions within the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) since 1971, his longest period of service being at New River Community College (NRCC) in Dublin.

"Serving as the President of WCC has been a privilege, and it represents the pinnacle of my career in education," said White. "I'm very proud of the progress the college has made over the last eight years, and I look forward to more progress in the coming year. However, next June will be the time for me to go. I am looking forward to spending more time away from work."



Charlie White

White added that by announcing his retirement at the beginning of the current school year, it will be possible for the search for his successor to begin sooner, rather than later. "By making my announcement now," said White, "the Chancellor of the VCCS will have plenty of time to organize the search for a new President, and I know that search will be both thoughtful and diligent."

Before moving to the Presidency of WCC, White was the Vice President for Instruction and Student

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Foundation tops 50th anniversary campaign goal

The Wytheville Community College Educational Foundation's "Celebrating Success" fundraising campaign has exceeded its goal of \$1.5 million.

Campaign Chair William M. "Bill" Dixon made the announcement at the college's August 23 wind-up event, which marked the end of WCC's 50th Anniversary celebration.

Dixon said the final total for the "Celebrating Success" campaign was more than \$1.7 million--\$1,703,707, to be exact. A total of 688 gifts were made during the campaign.

The campaign chair noted that numerous volunteers assisted with the fundraising effort. The campaign involved not only mailing letters requesting support, but also directly asking donors for contributions. Dixon thanked all who supported the "Celebrating Success" campaign, including WCC faculty and

staff, college retirees, WCC board members (including those from the College Board, the Educational Foundation Board, and the Scholarship Foundation Board), alumni, and friends. He added that donors participated with a combination of gifts, pledges, and the establishment of estate plans to benefit WCC.

Dixon outlined several highlights from the fundraising campaign, including the establishment of 14 new funds and/or endowments; eight new estate plans; additions to 63 existing scholarship and educational endowments/funds; the establishment of endowments to support the WCC Concert Band and the WCC Community Choir; grants from the Wythe-Bland Foundation and the Virginia Tobacco Commission; and the naming of the WCC Dental Lab for Drs. O.J. Campbell, Richard G. Copenhaver, and Dennis R. Throckmorton.

Dental lab named in honor of three local dentists

Wytheville Community College has named its dental lab in Galax Hall in honor of three Wytheville dentists, two of whom are alumni of WCC.

The dental lab will be known as the “Campbell, Throckmorton, & Copenhaver Dental Lab,” in recognition of the tremendous support of Drs. O.J. Campbell, Dennis R. Throckmorton, and Richard G. Copenhaver. Over the years, the trio has provided professional and financial support of the WCC Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting programs, as well as funded numerous scholarships to WCC students.

Together, Drs. Campbell, Throckmorton, and Copenhaver—who have a dental practice in Wytheville—have contributed more than \$100,000 in support of WCC. Additionally, Campbell was previously the on-site dentist at the dental lab.

“All three of these gentlemen are extraordinary friends of the college,” said WCC President Dr. Charlie White in announcing the naming of the dental lab. “We are honored that they have chosen to name the WCC Dental Lab, where all of our students in the dental hygiene program complete their training.”

The “Campbell, Throckmorton, & Copenhaver Dental Lab” provides a “real world” dental clinic for WCC students and serves approximately 2,200 patients each year. The lab is open to the public, providing dental services to members of the community while simultaneously helping train future dental hygienists.

Throckmorton and Copenhaver, both of whom are



Pictured are (left to right) WCC President Charlie White, Dr. O.J. Campbell, Dr. Richard G. Copenhaver, Dr. Dennis R. Throckmorton, and William M. “Bill” Dixon, Chair of the 50th Anniversary Campaign.

WCC graduates, were recently inducted into the WCC Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor for their educational, career, and civic achievements. Campbell, who began practicing dentistry in 1952, earned his D.D.S. from the University of Tennessee at Memphis. He is a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

The “Campbell, Throckmorton, & Copenhaver Dental Lab” was officially dedicated as part of WCC’s 50th Anniversary Campaign Celebration on August 23. Campbell, Throckmorton, and Copenhaver received a commemorative plaque, and bronze plaques will be placed at the entrances to the dental lab on the lower level of Galax Hall on WCC’s main campus.

The dental hygiene lab opened in 1988, and WCC graduated its first class of dental hygienists in 1990. For more information about services provided in the “Campbell, Throckmorton, & Copenhaver Dental Lab” at WCC, please call 276-223-4830.

•White

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Services at NRCC, a position he had held since 2000. He also served as Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Services and Research in the VCCS office during 2005. He chaired the Division of Arts and Sciences at New River from 1983-1998, and was a Professor of Biology and chair of the Math and Science Division prior to that. He joined the NRCC faculty in 1971.

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Pictured are (front row, left to right) June M. Mitchell, Dr. Carolyn Widner Ward, Sandra K. Thomas, and Rita K. Key; (back row, left to right) Dr. Dennis R. Throckmorton, WCC President Charlie White (who presented the awards), C.M. Mitchell, Jr., Kenneth Wm. Heath, Robert T. Gordon, Dr. Richard G. Copenhaver, and J. Michael Burris.

WCC inducts 10 additional distinguished alumni

WCC, as part of the closing celebration of its 50th Anniversary year, inducted an additional 10 members of the WCC Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor at a special ceremony on August 23 in Wytheville.

The WCC Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor was established in 2013 as part of the college's 50th Anniversary celebration for the purpose of recognizing deserving WCC alumni for their contributions to education, business, and civic organizations, as well as for their achievements since graduating from the college. The first eight members of the Hall were inducted on September 28 of last year.

WCC President Charlie White presented the awards, noting that "during the past summer we received many nominations for the second class of honorees." He added that "after careful review of the nominations, the selection committee has chosen to

recognize 10 WCC graduates, the earliest having completed his studies in 1968, and the most recent having earned her degree in 1989."

The following 10 alumni were inducted:

Joseph Michael "Mike" Burris attended WCC from Grayson County and earned his Associate's Degree in business administration in 1972. He completed his education with a B.S. from Virginia Tech in 1975. Burris then became a certified public accountant. He lives in Charlottesville and is the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Blue Ridge Region for Sentra Healthcare, including Sentra Martha Jefferson Hospital and Sentra RMH Medical Center.

Dr. Richard G. Copenhaver originally attended WCC as a resident of Wythe County, and he completed his Certificate in dental assisting from WCC in 1975. Copenhaver then earned a B.S. in dental hygiene from Old Dominion University in 1977 and went on to receive a D.D.S. from MCV-VCU in 1984. Copenhaver is a dentist at Drs. Campbell, Throckmorton and Copenhaver, D.D.S., P.C. in Wytheville and is also President of the WCC Scholarship Foundation Board.

Wytheville Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, political affiliation, genetics, veteran status, or disability when the person is otherwise qualified in its educational programs and activities or employment. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Crystal Cregger, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services, 215 Bland Hall, 1000 East Main Street, Wytheville VA 24382, 276-223-4762. For further information, call 1-800-421-3481 for the address and phone number of the enforcement office that serves your area.

MTC program cited nationally for best practices

A research report published recently by the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness in Arlington, Virginia, cited the Manufacturing Technology Center's E3 program as one of 10 initiatives chosen from across the country demonstrating best practices for maximizing the effectiveness of regional Partnerships to support local manufacturers.

The Manufacturing Technology Center (MTC) is based at Wytheville Community College.

The report, entitled "Strengthening Regional Relationships to Support Manufacturing: 10 Successful Initiatives," was authored by a team of researchers headed by Dr. Mark C. White.

The report details an in-depth study of 10 unique, highly-successful programs from across the U.S. aimed at helping local manufacturers be more competitive and sustainable.

The E3 program is a joint effort among five Federal Agencies—the departments of Energy, Labor, Commerce, EPA, and the Small Business Administration. The program focuses on helping manufacturers in the three "E's" of Energy, Economy, and Environment. According to Nelson J. Teed, Executive Director of the MTC, the MTC was one of the first organizations to launch an E3 initiative. "The E3 program has helped numerous manufacturers in our region save money, and reduce their environmental impacts and energy usage. We are very excited that the success of the pro-

gram has been recognized."

The MTC is a not-for-profit agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia affiliated with the five community colleges serving the 17 counties of Southwest Virginia. The MTC offers a wide range of programs and technical consulting aimed at helping the region's manufacturers.

To learn more, visit their website at: www.wmtcof-swva.org.

•Alumni

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Robert T. Gordon was a resident of Bland County while attending WCC, and he earned an Associate's Degree in business administration in 1985. Gordon also received a B.S. in business management from Radford University in 1987 and an M.S. in human resources management and labor/employee relations from Virginia Tech in 1990. He worked as a Human Resources professional with American Electric Power for 20 years. Gordon serves as Manager of Human Resources, Processes, and Employment Practices for Lowe's Companies, Inc. in Mooresville, NC.

Kenneth Wm. Heath attended WCC from Smyth County, and he earned an Associate's Degree in communication arts in 1984. Heath continued his education at East Tennessee State University, earning a B.A. in communication. He began a career in media promotions and marketing. Heath now serves the Town of Marion as Director of Economic and Community Development and Executive Director of the Marion Downtown Revitalization Association, Inc.

Rita K. Key was a Grayson County resident when she attended WCC and graduated with her Associate's Degree in science. She earned a B.S. in mathematics from Radford University and a M.Ed. from Virginia Tech in Curriculum and Instruction. She also studied Educational Leadership for Administration and Supervision PreK – 12 at RU. Key began teaching at Galax High School in 1980 and has taught math, science, and physics. She has been an adjunct faculty member at WCC since 1984. She is the Assistant Principal at GHS.

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Upcoming Events

- Oct. 17**—"Access WCC" airs on WXBX-FM 95.3., WWWJ-AM 1360, WZVA-FM 103.5
- Oct. 18**—Bluegrass & Old-Time Jamboree, Snyder Auditorium, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 15**—Bluegrass & Old-Time Jamboree, Snyder Auditorium, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 21**—"Access WCC" airs on WXBX-FM 95.3., WWWJ-AM 1360, WZVA-FM 103.5
- Dec. 9**—WCC Concert Band, 7 p.m., George Wythe H.S. Auditorium
- Dec. 9**—WCC Community Choir, 7 p.m., Hillsville United Methodist Church
- Dec. 16**—WCC Community Choir, 7 p.m., St. John's Episcopal Church, Wytheville

Copeland recognized for philanthropic support of WCC

Daniel Copeland of Halethorpe, Maryland, has received the 2014 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy for his longstanding support of WCC.

WCC nominated Copeland, who in 1990 established the "Duncan Marshall Copeland Memorial Scholarship Endowment" in memory of his son. The younger Copeland, a former WCC student, died in an automobile accident the day he was to graduate from WCC.

Thus far, Copeland, who previously lived in Grayson County, has donated more than \$75,000 to the scholarship. Many Copeland family members and friends have also contributed. The interest from that fund has provided 81 scholarships to WCC students to date.

"Too much potential goes underdeveloped in Southwestern Virginia," Copeland said. "But WCC offers a broad base of high-quality yet inexpensive technical, professional, and educational opportunities so the region's residents can develop the necessary skills to find gainful employment."

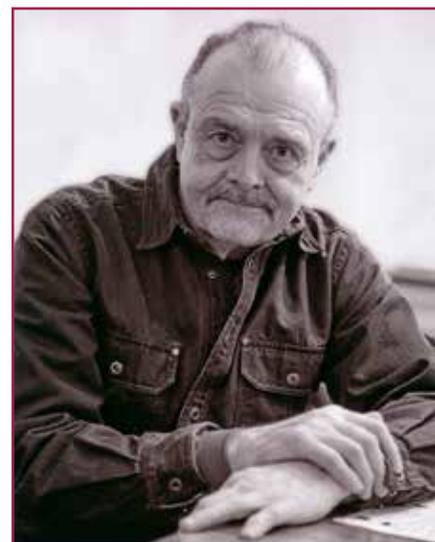
"Mr. Copeland has been a loyal donor for nearly a quarter century," said WCC President Charlie White. "Many WCC students have benefitted from Mr.

Copeland's generosity, and we are grateful to him for honoring his son's memory through this scholarship endowment."

The Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE) presents the Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy to honor

the leading philanthropists from each of Virginia's 23 community colleges, as well as the statewide foundation. This year's class of distinguished philanthropy leaders has contributed a total of more than \$12 million dollars to Virginia's Community Colleges.

The VFCCE also provided funds for the "Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship in honor of Daniel Copeland."



Daniel Copeland

Meredith named recipient of Copeland legacy scholarship

WCC student Kenley Meredith has received the prestigious Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship for the 2014-15 academic year.

Meredith, a resident of Hillsville, received the scholarship on behalf of WCC. The scholarship was given in honor of Daniel Copeland, WCC's recipient of the 2014 Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. Meredith is a 2014 graduate of Carroll County High School where he achieved outstanding academic and extracurricular successes.

The Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship Program awards scholarships to first-time students who are planning to attend a college in the VCCS. The program is funded by the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE). Recipients not only have excelled academically but also have a record of service to others. The Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship is given out annually to one student at each of the 23 Virginia Community Colleges. The

VFCCE also choose one scholarship recipient from among all Virginia Community College students. The scholar must exhibit academic excellence, leadership and mentoring skills, and have potential to become an ambassador for community college education. The award recognizes students' outstanding achievements in high school with payment of full tuition, fees, and books for one academic year.

Meredith is studying science with a specialization in engineering at WCC and plans to transfer to the University of Virginia to study engineering. Meredith maintained a 4.4 grade point average in high school and was ranked third in his graduating class.

At Carroll County High School, Meredith was a member of the Future Business Leaders of America, the National Honor Society, the Interact Club, and the varsity baseball team.

Visit WCC's newly-redesigned website at <http://www.wcc.vccs.edu>.

Daniel Peets of Marion named Valley Proteins Fellow

The Virginia Foundation for Community College Education has selected Daniel Peets, who attends Wytheville Community College, as a member of the fourth class of the prestigious Valley Proteins Fellows scholarship program.

Peets, of Marion, is majoring in science with a specialization in engineering at WCC and currently holds a 4.0 grade point average.

After WCC, he plans to transfer to Virginia Tech and major in civil and environmental engineering. Peets is a husband and father of three small children and volunteers with the youth group at Calvary Baptist Church in Marion. He is also a member of the WCC Outdoor Club and has helped with cave cleanup and cave mapping projects.



Daniel Peets

The Valley Proteins Fellows represent the best and most motivated second-year students at Virginia's community colleges who demonstrate both academic and leadership potential along with an uncompromising commitment to excellence. Of the 400,000 people Virginia's community colleges serve across the commonwealth, only 10 are selected for the Valley Proteins Fellows Program.

The fellowship has an estimated value of \$15,000, which includes full coverage of tuition and fees. The fellows participate in a unique curriculum that includes leadership programs, cultural opportunities, and a community service project.

The fellows program is made possible through the generous donation of Valley Proteins, Inc., a longtime supporter of the Virginia Community College mission. The Winchester-based company has been in the rendering business for more than 60 years and currently operates 14 plants in seven states.

"Congratulations to these students who earned some of our most competitive scholarships," said Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia's community colleges. "These scholars are talented, motivated, and community-focused. These men and women will be taking the reins of leadership and leaving their mark on the world, and we're delighted to work with them."

WCC is 19th most affordable two-year college in the U.S.

WCC continues to be recognized nationally for its affordability, being named this year as the 19th most affordable two-year college in the U.S. WCC has been named to the list for several years and is the only Virginia two-year college so recognized.

The announcement was made by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

"Wytheville Community College is honored to receive this recognition again," said WCC President Charlie White. "WCC and the entire Virginia Community College System remain committed to providing affordable access to high quality higher education. It is gratifying that we have been recognized for our efforts."

White credited the low cost of attending WCC to three factors: the VCCS' low tuition cost, WCC's extensive financial aid program, and the many scholarships available through the WCC Educational Founda-

tion. He added that two specific scholarship programs available at WCC—the Wythe-Bland Foundation Scholarship Program and the Forging Futures Scholarship Program (both of which are administered by the WCC Educational Foundation)—have had a profound impact on the affordability of an education at WCC.

"We certainly go the extra mile to find money to help our students attend college," added White. "It helps a great deal that our Educational Foundation is in a position to provide a great many additional student scholarships, thanks to the generous supporters of our foundation."

WCC's rating as the 19th most affordable two-year college in the nation was based on in-state tuition costs after scholarships and grants were applied. The data were drawn from the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

•Alumni

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Clarence “C.M.” Mitchell, Jr. originally attended WCC as a resident of Grayson County, and he completed his Associate’s Degree in science from WCC in 1968. Mitchell graduated with a B.S. in pharmacy from the Medical College of Virginia School of Pharmacy in 1971. Mitchell worked as a pharmacist for many years and is currently the Director of Pharmacy Services at Twin County Regional Hospital. He is the Mayor of the City of Galax, a position he has held since 1992.

June M. Mitchell was a Carroll County resident when she attended WCC, earning her Associate’s Degree in mental health technology in 1980. Mitchell also earned a B.A. in religious education from Blue Ridge Christian College in 1983. Mitchell spent over 50 years advocating for the mentally and physically disabled. She began serving as a Human Rights Advocate with the Department of Behavioral Health in 1978 and retired from that position in 1996.

Sandra K. Thomas was a resident of Wytheville when she attended WCC, and she completed her Associate’s Degree in science from WCC in 1970. Thomas went on to earn a B.S. in biology and general science in 1972 and an M.S. in science education in 1976, both from Radford University. She also earned a certificate in earth science in 1980 from RU. Thomas retired from teaching science courses after 33 years with Carroll and Wythe counties public schools. She is a WCC Career Coach at George Wythe High School and the Wythe County Tech Center where she assists high school students with career/college planning.

Dr. Dennis R. Throckmorton was a resident of Wytheville while attending WCC, and he earned an Associate’s Degree in science in 1974. He also earned a B.S. from Virginia Tech in 1976 and a D.D.S. from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1980. Throckmorton is a dentist at Drs. Campbell, Throckmorton and Copenhaver, D.D.S., P.C. in Wytheville. He is the Vice President of the WCC Educational Foundation.

Dr. Carolyn W. Ward attended WCC as a resident of Wythe County, and she completed her Associate’s Degree in general studies in 1989.

She earned a B.S. in geography from Emory & Henry College and an M.S. in 1994 and a Ph.D. in 1998 both in outdoor recreation from Virginia Tech. Ward worked as a professor and instructor at Virginia Tech, Humboldt State University, West Virginia State University, and Royal Road University in Canada. She is now the Chief Executive Officer of the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation.

Each inductee received a special plaque that was designed and fabricated in the WCC Machine Shop by Associate Professor Tommy Arnold.

Rainier Trio performs on Oct. 18

The Rainier Trio will perform on Saturday, October 18, at 7 p.m. at the St. Paul United Methodist Church, 330 Church Street, in Wytheville.

The event is sponsored by WCC, the WCC Educational Foundation, St. Paul United Methodist Church, St. John’s Episcopal Church, the MacDowell Music Club, and the P.L.A.Y. Fund.

The October 18 event is entitled “A Night at the Movies with the Rainier Trio.” The Trio features Kevin Matheson on violin, Bryan Matheson on viola, and Brenda Wittwer on piano.

Book on autism arriving by Christmas

Liz Becker’s book, entitled “Autism and the World According to Matt,” will be available in hardcover and paperback from Tate Publishing before Christmas.

Becker is a biology instructor at WCC.

This delightful collection of stories is a love letter from a mom who refuses to accept the 1990 view of autism that is imposed on her son and instead embarks on a journey to uncover the beauty of who her son really is. The stories encompass everything from the trials and tribulations of potty training to helping Matt get his own apartment.

The book is available at www.tatepublishing.com (324 pages - \$22.99, paperback).



Alumni Picnics Abound



Attendees create name tags after arriving at the Carter Pines Picnic Shelter in Hillsville for the August 1 Carroll County Alumni Picnic.



Old friends catch up before the meal.



Picnic attendees enjoy the free music.



The Zephyr Lightning Bolts perform.



Charlie White (center) and Ricky Anderson (right) greet a guest at the Grayson County Alumni Picnic in Independence on Sept. 16.



Attendees enjoy a meal and good fellowship.



Joyce Rouse and Wayne Henderson & Friends entertain the crowd.



WCC Board member Dick Dalton (left) chats with Jill Watson Ross of the WCC Educational Foundation, and Grayson County Sheriff Richard Vaughan.