

[WCU Regional Summit Invitation]

January 29, 2003

[Salutation]

We at Western are striving to create an “engaged university,” an institution whose faculty, students, staff, and administrators understand and are fully committed to meeting the needs of the state and our host region. This effort requires not only excellence in teaching and in programs that contribute to economic development but also collaboration with our key constituencies.

I am planning a one-day conference where state and regional leaders can come together to develop a common understanding of our highest, shared priorities. We are calling the event, “A REGIONAL SUMMIT: *Meeting Western North Carolina’s Needs Through Higher Education!*” I invite you to attend this conference that will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, February 21, in the Ramsey Regional Activity Center. Our keynote speaker will be The Honorable Marc Basnight, President Pro Tempore, N.C. Senate. Other presenters include Mr. Phil Kirk, President and Secretary, North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry and Chairman of the State Board of Education; Ms. Mary Jo Waits, Associate Director, The Morrison Institute for Public Policy, Arizona State University; and Dr. Greg Bischak, Chief Economist, Appalachian Regional Commission.

We regard the conference as a major step toward identifying, with the help of leaders in business, government, education and the other sectors of our North Carolina community, the greatest needs of the state and region, and ways in which the university can assist. Your involvement in this important event will be most helpful in assuring that we are moving in the right direction, and I sincerely hope you will attend. Since lunch will be served, please respond no later than February 17 to Christy Ashe at 1-800-224-4928, (828)227-7103, or cashe@email.wcu.edu.

Sincerely,

John W. Bardo
Chancellor

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