**Proposal to make the West Campus (Health and Human Sciences Building)**

 **a Tobacco Free Campus by 2013**

On May 4, 2012, two undergraduate nursing students (Amanda King, second semester junior and Kari Mauck, graduating senior), along with their faculty advisor (Professor Amy Putnam) presented a petition to the Dean’s Office in the College of Health and Human Sciences that supported turning the west campus into a tobacco free campus. This petition was sponsored by the Association of Nursing Students and signatures were collected on the Western Carolina University Campus at the end of the spring semester. The students obtained 381 supportive signatures; 40 from faculty, 26 from staff, and 315 from students.

As a college of health professionals, we care deeply about the health of our students and employees, as well as the health of the environment around us. The benefits of moving to a smoke-free campus are indisputable. According to the 2010 Surgeon General’s Report, employees who work in places with smoke-free or tobacco-free policies are almost twice as likely to stop using tobacco as those who work where tobacco use is allowed. Moving to a smoke-free campus is also recommended by the American College Health Association (www.acha.org), who state environmental tobacco smoke is a "Class A carcinogen" to which there is "no safe level of exposure."

This petition was presented to the Provost’s Office over the summer and was then brought to the WCU Executive Council for approval. While the Executive Council supported the notion of a tobacco free west campus, they suggested that this proposal should also be vetted through the staff and faculty senates, as well as the Student Government Association. We are open to hearing your feedback and ask that you direct any comments, questions or concerns to Professor Amy Putnam at awputnam@email.wcu.edu by **October 31, 2012**.

If this proposal receives final approval from the WCU Executive Council, a committee made up of staff, students and faculty will be formed to develop specific guidelines and procedures related to how to enforce this policy. It has been suggested that while the tobacco free policy should be implemented in all university facilities, buildings and grounds, there should be two exceptions: smoking inside personal vehicles and along public streets that are not university-owned.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Putnam, Faculty Advisor

Judy Neubrander, Director, School of Nursing

Marie Huff, Interim Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences