



Our Partners at Western Carolina University

From May 13 to May 20, the University Center at Western Carolina University will be the headquarters for one of the most intensive planning workshops in the history of North Carolina's mountain region. But long before the start of that groundbreaking charrette, Western students, faculty, and staff were playing key roles in the Mountain Landscapes Initiative.

Vickey Wade, director of the Local Government Training Program in Western's Political Science and Public Affairs Department, was among the original Task Force planners for The Community Foundation's Mountain Landscapes Initiative. The LGTP is taking a leading role in helping to train charrette planners and facilitators in the western counties and will assist local governments in applying planning tools in the MLI "Tool Box."

Western's Geosciences & Natural Resources Management Department faculty and students are involved in the base data collecting and mapping phase of the "Tool Box" project. And other departments and individuals are contributing their time and expertise to this project.

It's hard to overstate the advantage of having a regional university, with its considerable research, resources and technical expertise, working in harmony with citizens and leaders in such an ambitious effort. Indeed, it's difficult to imagine undertaking such an effort without Western's contributions.

