



WNC businesses find a friend in Reese, WCI

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Name: Fredrick Reese

Age: 55

Position: President/CEO of WCI, Inc. (WCI is a nonprofit organization that provides human resources and other training and advice for manufacturers and other businesses and organizations.)

Job responsibilities: Leadership for a business organization that represents more than 550 members/clients.

Number of employees at your business: 20.

Lives in: East Asheville.

Originally from: Guilford County (Greensboro area).

How you ended up in WNC: I responded to the opportunity to lead WCI. I was living in Charlotte at the time, having just relocated back to North Carolina after living for a while on the West Coast and in the Midwest. My wife and I had always planned on retiring in either the mountains or Chapel Hill, where we lived while in school. The job opportunity with WCI gave me an opportunity to do something that I feel is very worthwhile and, at the same time, enabled us to relocate here several years prior to retirement. We love this area and feel really blessed to be here.

Family (or pets) with you here in Asheville: Wife, former Vickie Neal, Rockingham County, married 36 years. Three grown children: daughter, Heather, living in Australia with husband, Nigel; son, Christian, single, works at WCI; son, Timothy, student at UNC Chapel Hill; dog, Martin, a mix of chow and shepherd (we think). We rescued him while living in Charlotte.

Memorable first job: Project manager for a new manufacturing plant. This was a two-year project.

Professional tip: Do everything you do as if you are working for the Lord.

Key education/training: UNC Chapel Hill, B.S. Business Administration and Management Development Program, Harvard MBA program.

Role models: My father, Henry Reese, a former pastor (deceased), and my former boss at Avery Dennison, Paul Caruso.

Currently reading: "Battlefield of The Mind," by Joyce Meyer.

Business news sources you regularly use: Asheville Citizen-Times, Western North Carolina Business Journal, NC Business Magazine.

Bookmarked Web site(s) include: www.INSIDECarolina.com.

Favorite places to do lunch: Apollo Flame and Sunny Point Cafe.

Currently in your CD player: "Hope," Hillsong Music.

On your plate in 2006: Helping reduce the cost of doing business in Western North Carolina (health care, workforce development, and limiting government intervention and regulations).

Volunteer/civic interests: Industry For the Blind (IFB) and Blue Ridge Conference on Leadership.

What you do to unwind and destress: Play golf and support the Tar Heels.

Notable quote about business in the Asheville area: "I believe all of Western North Carolina is going to benefit from the national interest and attractiveness of the Asheville area."

Contact information: WCI, Inc., 667-3311, www.wciinc.org.