Candidate for SCC trustee touts business background
By David Henson/Staff Writer

Saturday, July 24, 2004 - Twice-appointed Solano Community College Trustee Jerry Wilkerson has announced he will seek election this November to the District 1 seat he currently holds.

In 2003 and 2002, Wilkerson replaced trustees who left the two-year seat, which represents Vacaville, Dixon and Winters.

An Air Force veteran and former student at Solano, Wilkerson is a branch sales manager at Solano Bank in Vallejo and has lived in Vacaville since 1977. He is married to Shereene Wilkerson, current director of student support services for the Vacaville Unified School District.

The 51-year-old Wilkerson said he will continue to lend strong business sense to the board if elected in November.

"I have a background in business and know what to look for in financial statements," he said. That experience will come in handy, Wilkerson said, as trustees have been faced with difficult budgets.

In addition, he said there are projects at the college that he would like to see through as a trustee, such as bolstering the college's relationship with Genentech and completing the Vacaville satellite center.

"If I'm successful, I'll make sure campus projects are completed on time and continue to support the professors and staff because without them, we don't have a school," Wilkerson said.

The incumbent was the only trustee to vote against the project-labor agreement for $124.5 million in projects under the Measure G facilities bond, a position he explained.

Wilkerson said the entire Vacaville community, not just union workers, helped to pass Measure G, so everyone should have the opportunity to bid on those projects.

"Otherwise you close folks out who would normally bid," Wilkerson said.

If he wins in November, it will mark the first election Wilkerson has won. He was defeated in 2002 by Gerie Bledsoe.

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