 AGREEMENT REACHED FOR LOCATION OF RALEIGH COUNTY CAMPUS ADJACENT TO PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER

At a specially called meeting on Jan. 7, the New River board of governors approved an agreement with the Higher Education Foundation Board, owners of the Public Higher Education Center property. Leslie Baker, chair of the New River board of governors, said “The agreement provides New River Community and Technical College immediate and long-term expansion opportunities for its Raleigh County Campus.”

According to President Spring, “Specific details of the agreement remain to be worked out between the college and the foundation; however, the agreement clears the way for New River to plan its initial building on the property to house central administration and instructional programs.”

New River will have immediate access to two building sites at the south end adjacent to the Erma Byrd Center building and two additional building sites located at the north end of the property.

A site plan for the entire project, which will amend the 10-Year Facilities Master Plan for New River, was created cooperatively between the college, the Higher Education Policy Commission, and the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (WVCTCS) and approved by New River’s board of governors. The amended 10-Year Facilities Master plan must now receive final approval by the WVCTCS Council.

When the Raleigh County Campus is completed, New River anticipates four structures to house the administration headquarters for the college, allied health programs, a general education building and a student resource center.
NEW RIVER CO-HOSTS COMMUNITY FORUM ON JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Spearheading the Community Forum on Jobs and Economic Growth were (L-R) Bill Loope, vice president of Institutional Advancement and Workforce Education; Bobby Lewis, director of the state office of USDA Rural Development; Rep. Nick Joe Rahall (D-WV); President Ted Spring; Doug Cyphers, interim director of the USDA Farm Service Agency; and Steve Pilato, regional representative for Governor Manchin.

On Thursday, Jan. 7, New River took a leadership role in convening community leaders from across southern West Virginia to participate in a national conversation about the economy. The college co-hosted a Community Forum on jobs and economic growth. The event, held at the Beckley/Raleigh County Convention Center, attracted more than 100 participants on a day when snowy weather threatened.

A wide array of representatives from community-based businesses and organizations converged for about four hours in an effort to localize and accelerate job growth in rural America. After a brief address by Congressman Nick Joe Rahall, Lisa Hatcher of New River moderated roundtable discussions of 12 questions designed to solicit local input on issues related to jobs and the economy. Each table had five minutes to address each of the questions. The results were later shared and discussed with the entire group.

In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Spring commented, “Today, we are listening to each other and gathering insight into how our country can emerge from this current economic crisis with a stable economy and a workforce prepared to compete in a global marketplace.”

All of the ideas generated at the event were to be compiled after the discussion, forwarded to the secretary of the Department of Agriculture and delivered to President Obama. This was one of a number of similar forums being conducted around the country at the request of the administration.

Bill Loope, vice president of Institutional Advancement and Workforce Education, was a primary organizer of the jobs summit. “This information will drive policy at the national level,” he said. “I think the suggestions will help the president and Congress know what they need to do immediately to change the economic landscape in rural America, and what they can do long term.”
Stephen M. Benson has been named vice president for finance and administration, filling a vacancy created by the retirement of Larry E. Barnhill at the end of 2009. Benson began work on Jan. 4. He comes to New River from William R. Sharpe Jr. Hospital in Weston, where he served as chief financial officer. He is a cum laude graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Strategic Leadership at Mountain State University.

Dr. Michael S. Curry has been named assistant dean of the Beckley Campus. He has served in that capacity on an interim basis since last July. Prior to coming to New River, he was a special assistant to the chancellor for the WV Higher Education Commission. He was vice president for admissions and financial aid at Concord University from 1999-2008. Curry is a magna cum laude graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan. He earned his M.Div. from the Harvard University Divinity School and his doctorate in Theology with an emphasis in Axiological Psychology from Suffield University.

DO YOU NEED BUSINESS CARDS OR A NAME BADGE?

New River has many new employees, changed addresses and new phone numbers across the campuses. If you need to order new or revised business cards, use the BJW order form that can be downloaded from the Administration and Finance page of the New River website. Send the form to Barbara Elliott in Public Relations, and she will place the order for you. The standard order is 500 cards. You can scan and e-mail the form to belliottnewriver.edu; fax it to 929-5494; or send it to her via inter-office mail to Central Administration in Beckley.

Elliott also orders plastic name tags with the New River logo. E-mail her your name and title as you would like it to appear on the badge. ID badges are handled by the IT Department.
Classified Staff Council representative Susie Atkins (center) presents the prize for best winter season door decoration to Consuela Phillips (left) and Mita Breckenridge from the Beckley Campus Financial Aid Office. The pair won a Tamarack gift certificate and a gift basket for their clever “Twelve Snowflakes of Financial Aid” door design.

Campus Dean Carolyn Sizemore (in red dress and silver crown) dispensed good cheer at the Beckley Campus Holiday luncheon on Dec. 8. The luncheon was well attended by faculty and staff and administrators. The Beckley/Raleigh County Campus SGA sponsored a party for New River students and their families on Dec. 11 at the Raleigh County Campus. Food, prizes and photos with Santa highlighted the event.

Faculty Institute will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at the Emma Byrd Center at the Public Higher Education Center beginning at 8 a.m.

Most of the Institute will be devoted to Division meetings for a discussion of academic policy issues that require faculty input. Some of the critical issues involve revising the probation and suspension rules, course repeats, academic forgiveness and grade appeal processes.

Attendees will also receive updates from Dr. Spring, Dr. Faulk and Larry Barnhill. Let’s hope the weather will give us a break so that this important event will be well attended!

Share news from your campus! Send news items, tips or photos for Transitions to Barbara Elliott, belliott@newriver.edu.