STENNETT AND MCCLANAHAN ARE NISOD EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

Judy Stennett and Scott McClanahan are recipients of the 2010 Excellence Award from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD). They were nominated for the honor by the faculty.

Since its inception in 1978, NISOD has emphasized the importance of teaching and leadership excellence in institutions of higher education. NISOD works to serve, engage, and inspire teachers and leaders through conferences, publications, web services, partnerships, programs, and more.

Stennett, associate professor of English on the Greenbrier Valley Campus, and McClanahan, English instructor on the Beckley/Raleigh County Campus, will attend the NISOD Annual Conference on Teaching and Leadership in Austin, TX, May 30-June 2.

“It’s quite an honor to be chosen by my colleagues,” Stennett said. “The conference program looks really good. The point is not just to honor the recipients, but to inspire and put new energy into our work. They’re acknowledging what we are doing, but also helping us improve our teaching methods.”

McClanahan echoes her enthusiasm, adding that he is looking forward to meeting other community college instructors from around the country.

“I’ve talked to faculty members who have received the award in the past, and they said the conference was a very positive experience. It’s a great honor, too,” he said.

Both expressed their appreciation to Dr. Spring, Dr. Faulk and their campus deans for supporting their efforts.

SNOW PLACE LIKE NEW RIVER!

What kind of dedication does it take to teach at New River Community and Technical College? Just ask Judy Stennett (left), who stopped for a photo op on her way in to the Greenbrier Valley Campus on Feb. 17.

Photo courtesy of Judy’s snow plow-weary husband, Michael Rosolina.
Dr. Michael Curry, assistant dean on the Beckley Campus, has been notified that his presentation, "Career Advising: Values-Driven Assessment and Goal-Setting," has been accepted as a breakout session for NISOD’s 32nd annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership.

Curry said he is honored to have been chosen to be a presenter and is grateful to Dr. Spring and Dr. Faulk for making it possible for him to attend.

Curry said that the paper derives from research he did while pursuing his doctorate in Theology with an emphasis in Axiological Psychology. He noted that students often select their field of academic study based on their skills without really considering how it ties in with their values structure. As a result, they often make horrible decisions.

“The old question in our society is ‘What do you want to be?’ Instead we should be asking ‘What do you value?’,” Curry commented.

Curry’s NISOD presentation is designed to equip advisors and career counselors with practical tools so they can conduct values inventories with students to assist them with making good choices before they become locked into a degree program that may not be suitable for them. He would like to incorporate a values inventory into New River’s orientation process, and is discussing the possibility with Tracy Evans, director of enrollment services.

Curry noted that the great philosopher Socrates told us to “Know thyself.” He prefers the approach of Søren Kierkegaard, the 19th Century Danish philosopher, theologian and psychologist, whose approach was to “Choose thyself.”

“It’s much more intentional,” Curry said. “We are all empowered to choose the ideal. We may not be successful, but we can try.”

The weather cooperated, and the reception for the Third Annual New River Student Art Exhibit at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg on Feb. 12 was well attended. At left, Lewisburg Mayor John Manchester discusses one of the works with Heather Logsdon, president of Allied Student Artists. In the photo at right, Dean of Students Emeritus Michael Palm admires the artwork while Dr. Harry Faulk, executive vice president and chief academic officer, chats with Susan Adkins, executive director of Carnegie Hall. The exhibit was coordinated by Nathan England, instructor of Fine Arts on the Greenbrier Valley Campus, and will remain on display in the Old Stone Room through the end of February.

Photos by Mike Williams
NEW TITLE III COHORT ATTENDS FIRST TRAINING SESSION

On Friday, Feb. 19, the second faculty cohort selected to receive training under the Title III grant gathered at the Raleigh County Campus in Beaver for their first workshop. Most members of the new group teach in Allied Health fields. Because of New River’s emphasis on expansion of Allied Health problems, it was decided to concentrate on this discipline during the second year of the five-year grant.

Dean Carolyn Sizemore is the Title III project director, assisted by Amanda Kincaid, office assistant. The workshop was led by Dr. David Ayersman, chief information officer, and Ralph Payne, director of the Center for Teaching Excellence.

Ayersman opened the training with a brief overview of the Title III grant. In 2008, New River was awarded a $2 million federal grant over five years. Renewal of the funding each year is contingent on satisfactory completion of program objectives. The overall purpose of the project is to improve New River’s ability to provide comprehensive student services to time- and place-bound students by increasing access to the learning opportunities provided by the college.

Ayersman explained that the project has three primary goals. The first is to install new Interactive Video Network (IVN) classrooms on each campus. Much of that work has been accomplished, although plans are still pending for new IVN classrooms in Pocahontas and Clay Counties to serve students in those nursing cohorts.

The second goal is to provide a resource center to assist faculty in using advanced technologies for teaching. Ralph Payne came on board last spring and established the Center for Teaching Excellence to facilitate that effort. Faculty members in the cohort will receive extensive training in Angel, Wimba and other software that will enhance their ability to develop online and web enhanced courses. The Center for Teaching Excellence is available to all faculty, and Payne is happy to assist anyone who wishes to incorporate multimedia elements into courses.

The third goal is to develop distance education courses and student services to help time- and place-bound students. Ayersman noted that the college will soon hire a systems programmer who will be responsible for making application, registration and other functions available through the website.
The Valentine’s Dance sponsored by the Nicholas County Campus SGA on Feb. 13 was a great success! Pictured are the movers and shakers behind the event: (front, L-R) Mandy Skidmore, Josh Mullens; (back, L-R) Dr. Lisa Brewer, faculty advisor; Mary Igo, Workforce Education program specialist; SGA President Ken Scott; Vice President Kathy Scott and Stacy Buckner.

Photo courtesy of Kathy Scott

STUDENTS PROVIDE COMMUNITY SERVICE AS VITA VOLUNTEERS

Several students on the Greenbrier and Nicholas County Campuses are volunteering for the VITA program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), which offers free tax preparation to low- to moderate-income taxpayers. Student volunteers are required to become certified with the Internal Revenue Service prior to participating in the program.

Currently, six Greenbrier Valley Campus students have completed certification. They are Jeanette L. Huffman, Robert G. Walkup, Donna Hawver, Daniel L. Hamrick, Rosaletta M. Hudson and Rebecca B. Smith. Another nine students are currently in the process of obtaining certification.

The Greenbrier Valley Campus program is under the direction of New River Business instructors Bryan Seldomridge, CPA and Chris Fink, M.S. Two area certified public accountants, Gayle Mason of Lewisburg and Melissa Boggs of Peterstown are also providing their time and expertise to the VITA program.

Students on the Nicholas County Campus are participating through Mountain Heart Community Services.

According to Seldomridge, the program has been an excellent opportunity for students to supplement their academic education while providing a valuable service to the community and fellow students. “We would like to thank Mountain Heart Community Services in Oceana and the WV Alliance for Sustainable Families in Summersville for their assistance in implementing this new program on our campus. We would also like to thank Mary Igo, program specialist in the Office of Workforce Education on the Nicholas County Campus, and members of the college administration for their support.

Greenbrier Valley Campus VITA volunteers (l-r) Bob Walkup of Rainelle, Donna Hawver of Lewisburg and Jeanette Huffman of Ronceverte. Photo by Mike Williams

Nicholas County Campus VITA volunteer Doris Gwinn with trainer Reba Deal of Mountain Heart Community Services. Photo courtesy of Mary Igo
Joyce Egnor, RN, MSN, chair of the Science and Allied Health Division and director of the Practical Nursing Program, has been appointed by Governor Joe Manchin to a three-year term on The West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses.

The board was established to promote and protect public health, safety, and welfare through the regulation of registered professional nurses and dialysis technicians. Among other responsibilities, the board is charged with assuring the quality of the basic education process, initial competence and ongoing competence for registered professional nurses and dialysis technicians. The board also defines the scope of practice for registered professional nurses, advanced practice nurses and dialysis technicians; provides a disciplinary process; and reviews issues related to the nursing shortage in the state.

Anthony Kinzer, founder and executive director of the West Virginia Center for African American Art & Culture in Charleston (second from right) was the guest speaker for the Beckley/Raleigh County Campus Black History Month program on Feb. 12. Pictured with him are (l-r) Dr. Harry Faulk, executive vice president and chief academic officer; Rondah Lowe, student representative on New River’s Board of Governors who organized the event; and President Ted Spring.

Stephanie A. Gaiser has joined the Workforce Education staff as an administrative associate. She will manage the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) programs. These federally funded programs provide financial assistance for qualified applicants to obtain job training or re-training through programs sanctioned by Workforce WV. Gaiser had previously been administrative secretary senior for the Beckley Campus.

Share news from your campus! Send news items, tips or photos for Transitions to Barbara Elliott, belliot@newriver.edu.
BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION KICKS OFF WITH TRAINING EVENTS THIS WEEK

Do **YOU** have the next **BIG IDEA**? Do you have a struggling company and need a new course of action or direction? All full- or part-time New River students are invited to participate in the National Entrepreneurship Week Business Plan Competition sponsored by New River and The Women's Business & Training Center.

Kick-off events are planned during this week, which is National Entrepreneur Week. Awards will be presented at the WV Small Business Administration Luncheon on May 13.

Bill Loope, vice president for institutional advancement and workforce education, said that the competition is supported by a grant from the Benedum Foundation to encourage entrepreneurship. It is open to students in any field of study, not just those pursuing a Business degree. First prize is a Dell laptop computer and printer. Second prize is a $1,000 scholarship, and third prize is a $500 scholarship. The submission deadline is March 31.

Kick-off events and introductory training will take place on the Nicholas County Campus on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 3 p.m.; on the Mercer County Campus Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 3 p.m.; on the Raleigh County Campus, Thursday, Feb. 25, at 3 p.m.; and on the Greenbrier Valley Campus Friday, Feb. 26, at 3 p.m.

A link to complete details of the contest can be found on the New River homepage, or contact the Office of Workforce Education located at 301-B George Street, call 304.929.6735, or e-mail Lisa Hatcher, lhatcher@newriver.edu.

STUDENTS SAVE THE DAY

The good news was that TV station WOAY was on the way over to do a story on the blackjack training that New River’s Center for Workforce Education is offering to prepare people for jobs at The Greenbrier Casino and other gaming facilities. The bad news was that a class was not currently in session, so there was nothing to photograph except an empty room.

The solution? Call in the extras! Terri Baker, workforce program specialist, immediately called Greenbrier Valley Campus Dean Roger Griffith, who rounded up a group of student volunteers and a van to transport them to the table games training facility in White Sulphur Springs. Answering the quick casting call were Kenneth Willis, Heather Marsala, Sara Dowdy, Heather Ryder, Autumn Scott Judy, Ryan Terry, Scott George, David Gallimore, Amanda Bryant, Joshua Herber, Heather McAlpine, Karanna Bostic, Contessa Bostic, Cassie Jones, Holly Morgan and Alyssa Reed. Baker expressed her appreciation to Dean Griffith, all the students, and to David Thompson and Melinda Ford who assisted with transportation.