ARCHITECTS SELECTED FOR RALEIGH COUNTY CAMPUS

ETB Architects of Princeton, WV and MBAJ Architecture of Charlotte, NC, have been selected to design the new Raleigh County Campus. The selection was announced by President Spring at the March 2 Board of Governors meeting.

The firms were selected through a competitive bidding process in which 22 firms submitted proposals for 11 community college projects around the state.

John Thomas of MBAJ and Todd Boggess of ETB attended the Board of Governors meeting to present an overview of how the design process will work and to give some background on their respective firms. Both are currently working on multiple projects around the state, including two new elementary schools and a high school renovation in Greenbrier County. MBAJ specializes in designing educational facilities.

Both architects stressed the importance of client involvement in the design process. Through meetings with New River’s Raleigh County Campus Planning Committee, they have already determined space needs and are now trying to reconcile those needs with 54,000 square feet available. The square footage was determined by the $13.5 million budget for the building. It is anticipated that the building will be ready for occupancy in the fall of 2012.

“The role our community college plays in economic development through education and training will change the economic landscape of our region. The construction of the Raleigh County Campus Central Administration Building marks the next milestone in our efforts. Our young adults and returning adult students who need marketable skills to earn a wage to feed their families will be benefactors of this successful project. Let me assure you, other buildings will follow,” Spring said.

Board of Governors Chair Leslie Baker noted that New River also received a $3 million appropriation to renovate a building on the Greenbrier Valley Campus in Lewisburg that is currently occupied by the Department of Highways. Architects for that project will be selected soon, and it is anticipated that the project will be completed in time for occupancy in spring 2011. Board member Dave Nalker of Lewisburg noted that the renovation project has created great excitement and anticipation among the Greenbrier Valley residents.
Joycie R. Wawiye, assistant professor of biology on the Beckley Campus, has been selected by Carnegie Mellon University as one of five community college faculty members who will help develop anatomy and physiology courses for its Community College Open Learning Initiative (OLI).

OLI instruction differs from other online learning programs in that OLI courses are designed so that both students and teachers receive continuous feedback, allowing the instruction to be modified mid-course if necessary to better facilitate learning, according to OLI Project Director Cadace Thille.

In collaboration with community college faculty across the country, Carnegie Mellon will blend the best of learning science and technology to create, evaluate and continuously improve virtual learning environments that support teachers and accelerate students’ academic progress.

Wawiye is thrilled and honored to be involved in the project. “Carnegie Mellon has done a lot of work on interactive self-help sites. The original ones were mostly developed by their own faculty. In this initiative, they are inviting community college faculty to help them develop several ‘gate keeper’ courses to help more community college students achieve success,” Wawiye said. “They have identified people who have really mastered the subject matter to work on these courses. Anatomy and physiology are very challenging, and they are essential in science education. Nationally, the average pass rate is only around 50 percent. Our goal is to improve the national rate to 70 percent or more.

The team met in Pittsburgh for an initial face-to-face meeting in February. They will continue to converse online throughout the year as they develop chapters for the course. A website has been opened to post material for team members to critique.

Wawiye was impressed that the team all had very different learning styles, which meant they were representative of the various students who will use the site. Their learning styles are also reflected in their teaching styles, she said.

“We sat and shared ideas to see how we could blend our experiences. You’d think you would find a clash of minds, but that wasn’t the case. It was more like it provided checks and balances and made the whole interaction more rich,” she commented. “This group is now my support team, not just to build the site, but to support each other in our classes. Working with people of like mind who can mentor and help you is the best part of this experience.”

Wawiye joined New River as an adjunct faculty member in 2002 and has been full-time since 2004. Last year she received the Teaching Excellence Award from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD). She was also selected in 2009 to participate in the Chancellor’s Leadership Institute, a program sponsored by the West Virginia Community and Technical College System to prepare faculty and staff to assume future leadership positions within their institutions.

Wawiye earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Andrews University. She is currently working on a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from Marshall University.
New River had a large delegation at Higher Education Day at the Legislature on Feb. 19. Pictured above with Sen. Mike Green (center) are (L-R) Karen Carter-Harvey, instructor of Psychology on the Beckley/Raleigh County Campus; Amanda Kincaid, office assistant for Title III; Donna Feijo, student recruiter and Classified Staff representative on the Board of Governors; Susie Atkins, administrative associate to the VP of Finance and Administration (and Senator Green’s mom!); Libby Belcher, director of college relations; and Leah Taylor, director of human resources. At right, New River’s booth was ably staffed by (L-R) Tracy Evans, director of enrollment services, and student recruiters Melanie Slone and Donna Feijo.

(Photos courtesy of Tracy Evans and Donna Feijo)

BUSINESS DURING HOURS
The Summersville Area Chamber of Commerce held a Business During Hours luncheon at New River’s Workforce Education office in Summersville on Feb. 25. After a tour of the new Allied Health Education Center, chamber members were treated to lunch by Mary Igo and Beverly McCutcheon of the Workforce staff. Pictured are Bill Loope, vice president for workforce education and institutional advancement; Bob Johnson, director of the local sheltered workshop; Nicholas County Campus Dean Fred Culler; Libby Belcher, director of college relations; and Joyce Egnor, chair of the Science/Allied Health Division.

Photo by the Nicholas Chronicle
CHILI COOK-OFF WARMS UP A COLD WINTER ON THE GREENBRIER VALLEY CAMPUS

After one weather-related delay, the SGA-sponsored Chili Cook-off finally took place on the Greenbrier Valley Campus on Feb. 18. The brave judges were Chad Hintz, Deena Rodgers and Roger Griffith.

CHILI CHAMPS: First place winner Terri Armentrout, (L) and second place winner Harley Rhodes with the aprons awarded to the top three chefs.

Third place winner, SGA President Robin Soukup (R), poses with fourth place winner Tim Hofmann (center, showing off his certificate) and fifth place winner Lynn Slater (photos courtesy of Wanda Johnson)

THANKS TO COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

The Greenbrier Valley Campus was one of 17 sites around the state to host the first-ever College Goal Sunday to provide free assistance with financial aid applications. Site coordinator Suzanne Soucier said that 23 families were served at the free event which took place on Sunday, Feb. 21. Statewide, the events assisted almost 300 families.

Soucier thanked the following New River faculty, staff and students who volunteered their time to assist with the event: Campus Dean Roger Griffith, Dr. Michael Curry, Nora Overath, Dr. Carolyn Thompson, Boats Keene, Beverly Pauley, Wanda Johnson, Terri Johnson, Melinda Ford, Bob Coston, Mike Williams, Barbara Elliott, Lilly Flores, Angie Henson, Howard Jones, Soloman Simmons, Craig Payne, Kathy Toney, Kaylee Hensley, Carrie Hensley-Patton and Heather Logsdon.

She also acknowledged the help of Sharon Howard and Jack Toney, financial aid experts at other institutions, and Curtis Pauley, Veterans Upward Bound representative from Davis and Elkins College who provides services to veterans on New River campuses.